

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 12:25:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Khara Jabola-Carolus	Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima and Honorable Members,

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women supports HCR112, declaring racism as a public health crisis in Hawai'i. Racism is not the result of individual acts, but rather individual acts backed by and taught by systems that harm Native Hawaiian, Black, Asian and immigrant women in Hawai'i. The Legislature is one of the most important actors in the fight against racism because policy is the greatest barrier to a classless, non-hierarchical society.

Accordingly, the Commission asks that the Committee pass this resolution.

Mahalo,

Khara Jabola-Carolus, J.D., Executive Director



American Heart Association testimony in strong SUPPORT of HCR112/HR90 “Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis”

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Glen Kaneshige

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Jennifer Walker

The American Heart Association strongly supports HCR112/HR90, “Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis.”

Structural racism is a major cause of poor health and premature death from heart disease and stroke, according to an American Heart Association Presidential Advisory, “Call to Action: Structural Racism as a Fundamental Driver of Health Disparities,” published in the Association’s journal *Circulation* in November 2020 ([Call to Action: Structural Racism as a Fundamental Driver of Health Disparities: A Presidential Advisory From the American Heart Association \(ahajournals.org\)](https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/full/10.1161/CIRCRES.120.000000)). The advisory reviews the historical context, current state and potential solutions to address structural racism in the U.S., and outlines steps the Association is taking to address and mitigate the root causes of health care disparities.

The Association is focusing more aggressively on overcoming societal barriers created by structural racism because they contribute significantly to the disproportionate burden of cardiovascular risk factors (including high blood pressure, obesity and Type 2 diabetes) in Black, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic/Latino people compared with white people in the U.S.

While overall death rates from heart disease and stroke declined over the past two decades until a recent plateau, these gains were not equitably shared among people who are from the Black, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native or Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities.

The new Presidential Advisory highlights three key points:

- Structural racism is a current and pervasive problem, influenced by history and not merely an issue of the past.
- Structural racism is real and produces adverse effects, whether it is blatant to others or perceived only or primarily by those impacted.
- The task of dismantling the impact of structural racism on economic, social and health inequities is a shared responsibility that must belong to all of society.

Serving Hawaii since 1948

Our Mission:

“To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.”

For more information on the AHA’s educational or research programs, visit www.heart.org or contact your nearest AHA office.

“Structural racism, by definition, is not a personal action or behavior or belief, it’s not something that a few people or institutions choose to practice,” said Keith Churchwell, M.D., FAHA, chair of the Advisory writing committee and president of Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Conn. “Structural racism is an embedded part of legal, business and social constructs and a feature of the social, economic and political systems in which we all exist. Although structural racism has existed for centuries, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated the existing disparities in health disparities, as evidenced by the way the virus is disproportionately more prevalent in people from Black, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, or Hispanic/Latino communities.”

The Association also announced new strategic business goals, with an increased focus on health equity. By 2024, the American Heart Association will champion health equity by advancing cardiovascular health for all, including identifying and removing barriers to healthcare access and quality. Specifically, the Association has committed to:

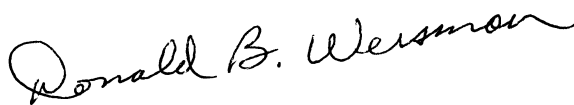
- Drive advances in research and discovery,
- Raise awareness, empower people and engage communities to improve their cardiovascular and brain health,
- Advocate relentlessly to improve healthcare quality and ensure access to healthcare for all, and
- Innovate new solutions to achieve equitable health for all.

In addition to working with allies to advocate for system change, the American Heart Association is examining its own organizational practices and processes to ensure they embrace antiracism within the Association and externally to better account for its interactions with volunteers, members, supporters and other organizations to end all forms of racism.

The Association stands ready to work with the Hawaii State Legislature and others in our community to address and make changes to the health inequities driven by structural racism.

We urge you to support HCR112/HR90.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald B. Weisman
Government Relations/Communications Director

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 9:41:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports HCR112. Thank you!



HCR112/HR90

ASSERTING THAT RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND URGING THE STATE TO COMMIT TO RECOGNIZING AND ADDRESSING THE RESULTING INEQUITIES

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘okolokolo a me ke Kuleana Hawai‘i
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Malaki 29, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Lumi 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HCR112/HR90, which would declare racism as a public health crisis, and urge the State to commit to several actions to assist in the dismantling of racism in Hawai‘i.

OHA has long advocated for meaningful policies, including targeted and systemic actions, necessary to help reduce the health inequities of Native Hawaiians and to better protect and uplift the health and vitality of the Lāhui. OHA’s most recent strategic priorities included Maui Ola (Health), which represents our continuing commitment to improve the quality of life of Native Hawaiians. In furtherance of this commitment, and in line with the Hawai‘i State Planning Act under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes § 226-20, OHA supports a “social determinants of health” approach to health policy, which takes a holistic and systemic view in addressing the health of Hawai‘i’s communities. Accordingly, OHA appreciates that **HCR112/HR90 may facilitate an examination of the racial inequities and disparities within those social determinants of health affecting Native Hawaiians and other health-vulnerable communities, including through the critically needed improvement of state data governance practices.**

OHA further appreciates that this measure would facilitate improved data collection and governance practices within the State. As the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted, timely, consistent, and appropriately disaggregated data for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders is essential to best inform our programmatic interventions, whether it be for COVID-19 or general public health planning, as well as data driven policymaking. OHA’s Data Governance Resolution, HCR3/SCR5, streamlines the acknowledged need for a coordinated approach for not only public health data, but also data related to various social determinants of health. OHA accordingly emphasizes that improved data governance and disaggregated Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander data is part of what is needed to identify and reconcile the impacts of racism in Hawai‘i, and ensure equitable policymaking as this resolution proposes.

As a final note, OHA appreciates specific components within the resolution that are deemed as best practices¹ in declaring racism as a public health crisis: (1) defining racism; (2) specifically acknowledging Hawai‘i’s history to facilitate truth and conciliation; (3) urging the use of a racial equity tool; and (4) recommending the adoption of a Hawai‘i-oriented, culturally-based health justice framework. The unique colonial history of Hawai‘i and the Pacific, including a legacy of targeted racist policies by Western colonizers, has resulted in particularized impacts on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders; this measure presents a tailored and best practices-informed approach to address and dismantle racism, including its specific impacts on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Hawai‘i.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR112/HR90. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Betsy Lawton and Dawn Hunter, Declarations Of Racism As A Public Health Crisis: Utilizing Declarations To Address Health Inequities (January 21, 2021), <https://www.networkforphl.org/resources/declarations-of-racism-as-a-public-health-crisis-utilizing-declarations-to-address-health-inequities/>.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 112

TO: Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, &
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: March 29, 2021 (9:00 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** HCR 112, which declares racism as a public health crisis in Hawai'i. In May 2020, the American Public Health Association (APHA) **declared**: "Racism is a longstanding systemic structure in this country that must be dismantled through brutally honest conversations, policy changes and practices." Since the death of George Floyd, [a number of states and local governments have declared that racism is a public health crisis](#).

Unfortunately, this measure does not specifically point to white supremacy as a key source of the dispossession and maltreatment of those impacted by structural racism, including Native Hawaiians and other non-whites. White supremacy in Hawai'i also impacts its large Filipinx population, which struggles with longstanding economic and health disparities, [exacerbated during this ongoing pandemic period](#), and remains underrepresented in Hawai'i's elected bodies and learned professions.

This hearing comes the week after a [new report](#) from UH Mānoa disclosed that [public school students who are Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Black, or disabled are subject to encounters with law enforcement at significantly disproportionate rates](#). The report also notes that Hawai'i leads the country in terms of students arrested and referred to law enforcement at almost 10%.

That ***one in ten*** K-12 students in Hawai'i's public schools are referred to law enforcement is a crisis that demands concerted attention at every level of government. On this front and others, ***the Legislature must lead the way*** toward a more just, equitable, and compassionate future for every person who resides in this archipelago.

Among the health disparities faced by Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations are [higher rates of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and tuberculosis than the general population](#) and higher rates of chronic diseases that include diabetes, heart disease, obesity and asthma. [COVID-19 has hit Marshallese and other Micronesian residents in Hawai'i especially hard](#), with state health authorities being less than proactive in providing needed language-appropriate health information through at least the first six months of the pandemic.

Income is the most important determinant of health, with those living in poverty having less access to routine medical care, higher rates of chronic diseases, and shortened life expectancies. Poverty reinforces the accumulation of [adverse childhood experiences correlating with unfavorable health outcomes](#) in adulthood.

[Hawai'i's poverty rate prior to the pandemic was just over 11% of the total population, with substantially higher percentages among Native Hawaiians \(15.5%\), Samoans \(20.4%\), Tongans \(16.2%\), Marshallese \(51.1%\), Vietnamese \(18%\), and Native Americans \(18.1%\)](#). Hawai'i should recalibrate its tax structure through measures like those advanced by the [Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition](#) in order help ensure that downturns in state and local tax revenues do not fall the hardest on those who are already below the poverty line. Notably, Hawai'i also continues to have the lowest property taxes in the nation.

Native Hawaiians continue to be disproportionately impacted by Hawai'i's criminal legal system, as has been the case since the late 19th Century. [Native Hawaiians are more likely to get a prison sentence, and for longer periods of time, than other groups. Native Hawaiians comprise the highest percentage of those incarcerated in out-of-state and women's prisons. Native Hawaiians are sentenced to longer probation terms than other groups. Native Hawaiians also bear a disproportionate burden of the punitive response to drug use, with sentencing structures, police practices, and prosecutorial practices contributing to that disproportionality.](#)

It is imperative that Hawai'i embark on concerted responses to drug use that are grounded in public health, including harm reduction services and appropriate medical care, and not maintain its overreliance on placing individuals with behavioral health problems in jail or prison,

which is latently injurious to individual health, and prolonged periods of criminal legal supervision that include probation and parole.

Current punitive responses to drug use constitute white supremacy and structural racism in ignominious operation. This includes the classification of personal drug possession and use *in any amount* as felonious “promotion of a dangerous drug” under HRS Section 712-1243, punishable by a prison term of five years.

The preface to a 2018 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report, “[Mass Incarceration Threatens Health Equity in America](#),” outlines the perilous human toll of over-incarceration:

Mass incarceration disproportionately impacts lower-income communities, communities of color, and persons with disabilities, creating a barrier to achieving health equity. People who are incarcerated face greater chances for chronic health conditions, both while confined and long after their release. Incarceration exposes people to a wide range of conditions, such as poor sanitation and ventilation and solitary confinement, that are detrimental to long-term physical and mental health. After release, previously incarcerated individuals often face higher mortality rates and experience limited opportunities for gainful employment, stable housing, education, and other conditions needed for good health.

Mass incarceration’s reach extends far beyond the jail cell, impacting not only those behind bars, but their families, their communities, and the entire nation. Almost 10 million children have experienced having one or both parents incarcerated at some point in their lives—impacting their health and future opportunities. Within communities, mass incarceration disrupts social and family networks and economic development while across the country it consumes large portions of government budgets with negligible impact on crime rates.

The high individual, familial, and governmental costs associated with consigning persons with behavioral health problems to protracted involvement in the criminal legal system are readily apparent to those familiar with assessing punitive responses to drug use at the state, national, and international levels.

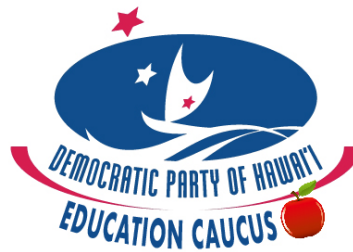
[The APHA vigorously endorses a public health response to drug use and misuse, including the decriminalization of personal drug possession and use. It urges state governments to eliminate “criminal penalties and collateral sanctions for personal drug use and possession offenses and to avoid unduly harsh administrative penalties, such as civil asset forfeiture...”](#)

As noted recently by a report from the Pew Charitable Trusts, [Hawai'i has the highest average term of probation in the nation at just under five years](#). Statewide probation reform that substantially reduces terms is another tangible means of repairing the harm of white supremacy and structural racism that are manifest in the operation of the state's criminal legal system.

This resolution laudably evinces an awareness that structural racism is a problem in Hawai'i. From that awareness should flow a slate of policy changes, including statutory revisions, that materially improve the lives of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, African Americans, and others who are impacted by white supremacy and structural racism. Placing the brakes on the overcriminalization of these populations, including those who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability, and instead providing needed attention, care, and services is paramount.

In short, the corrosive legacy and ongoing deleterious impact of white supremacy and structural racism in our state cannot be adequately addressed without substantial reorientation of state and local policies and practices related to the criminalization of behavioral health problems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HCR 112/HR 90, DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.

MARCH 29, 2021 · HOUSE JUDICIARY AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP.
MARK M. NAKASHIMA

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HCR 112/HR 90, declaring racism as a public health crisis.

Intolerance is an epidemic within the COVID-19 pandemic. As the coronavirus has surged throughout our shores, anti-Asian racism has soared. Stop AAPI Hate tracks reports of violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Since the start of the pandemic, they've received reports of **nearly 4,000 hate incidents directed toward Asians and Asian-Americans** across the U.S. Similarly, a recent report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, revealed that **hate crimes against Asian-Americans in 16 cities rose by 150 percent** in 2020.

Anti-Asian xenophobia has frequently resulted in violent acts. Just this week, an armed white male murdered eight people of Asian ancestry in Atlanta, Georgia, in an act of racial terror. We must take a stand against racial discrimination. If we don't, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "We will learn very shortly that racism is a sickness unto death."

**Kris Coffield · Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus ·
(808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com**



HCR 112/HR 90, DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.

MARCH 29, 2021 · HOUSE JUDICIARY AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP.
MARK M. NAKASHIMA

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports HCR 112/HR 90, declaring racism as a public health crisis.

Intolerance is an epidemic within the COVID-19 pandemic. As the coronavirus has surged throughout our shores, anti-Asian racism has soared. Stop AAPI Hate tracks reports of violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Since the start of the pandemic, they've received reports of nearly **4,000 hate incidents directed toward Asians and Asian-Americans** across the U.S.

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Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org



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and Human Resources

Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente

Date: March 28, 2021

To: Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Re: Support for HCR 112/HR 90, Declaring Racism as a Public
Health Crisis

Hrg: March 29, 2021 at 2:00 PM via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ **supports HCR 112/HR90**, which declares racism as a public health crisis.

The events of 2020 saw widespread acknowledgement of racism as a public health crisis, and greater understanding of the influence of social determinants of health on Hawaii's communities. We believe these events are an opportunity for us to confront these issues directly, to act in unity to rethink our priorities, invest in a just society, and a safe and healthy future.

HIPHI strives to eliminate racism, disparities and injustices to improve the health and wellness of all people. For us, this translates to moving beyond advocating *for* equity, but rather amplifying our work *against* inequity. This means calling out the systemic discrimination that continues to drive poor health outcomes in Hawai'i and actively working to change this narrative. This is why we work to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol. This is why we oppose policies that penalize use for the possession, use, or purchase of tobacco products. This is why we advocate to invest revenue from a sugary drink tax into the communities most affected by them. This is why we support restoring dental benefits for adult Medicaid enrollees.

All of us are called to rise to the challenge: to determine how we interrogate deeply-held beliefs and entrenched systems, and move forward with action and purpose. We commend the legislature for recognizing that racism is a public health crisis and look forward to working with the legislature on policies that work towards a more equitable, healthy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 112/HR 90.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Yamauchi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jessica" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Yamauchi".

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.

Hawaii
*Holding Power Accountable*Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
MONDAY, March 29, 2021
2:00 PM
Via Videoconference, Conference 325in consideration of
HCR 112 / HR 90
DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.

Chairs NAKASHIMA, Vice Chair MATAYOSHI, and Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Committee

Common Cause Hawaii provides written comments regarding HCR 112 / HR 90, declaring racism as a public health crisis.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. We work to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest and promotes equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all.

Being silent in the face of wrongdoing is not an option; it is tacit cooperation and being complicit. Common Cause agrees, as stated in HCR 112, at page 4, lines 18-19, that it is “our collective efforts to dismantle all forms of racism at all levels and its impacts”

Let us not forget the words of Pastor Martin Neimöller:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

We all need to reject and call out racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination, or hate crimes against all Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), including women.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HCR 112 / HR 90. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair

Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Monday, March 29, 2021

2:00 PM

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR 112 – RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai`i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the almost 4,100 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars or under the “care and custody” of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,075 of Hawai`i’s imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Mahalo for hearing this important resolution. Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support and we assert that if public policy were developed through a public health lens, everything would look different. No one would be expendable. Racism IS a public health problem, and a political problem as well because the entire western system is dependent upon structural racism by those who benefit from it.

There have been numerous studies that show the overcriminalization of Kanaka Maoli in their own country, and they have been ignored by the government. The data show¹ that Kanaka are no different than any other group in the criminal legal system, yet are more likely to be incarcerated than anyone else. One look inside our jails and prisons makes it pretty clear that they are Brown, over-populated with Kanaka Maoli and Pacific Islanders.

In 2010, at least 12,000 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders were under the supervision of the U.S. correctional system. Over 3,600 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders

¹ THE DISPARATE IMPACT OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ON NATIVE HAWAIIANS, Office of Hawaiian Affairs.
https://19of32x2yl33s8o4xza0gf14-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/factsheets_final_web_0.pdf

were in prison², 1 540 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders were in jail³, 21,300 were on parole, and 6,800 were on probation⁴.

There are 447 per 100,000 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island adults in prison, a ratio higher than Whites (425).⁵

The number of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island prisoners in custody increased 22% between 2002 and 2010, a rate higher average (8%) and higher than any other racial group except for Native Americans and Alaska Natives (29%).⁶

Among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, women are disproportionately incarcerated. In 2010, over 1 in 8 prisoners in custody were female. On average, 1 in 12 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islands prisoners in custody were female.⁷

Some states experienced disproportionate growth in the number of incarcerated. Between 2002 and 2010, the number of NHPI prisoners in California increased 144%, while the total number of prisoners increased 2%. The number of NHPI prisoners in Utah increased 134%, while the total number of prisoners increased 27% over the decade. While the number of prisoners overall decreased in Hawai'i (-10%), there was an 8% increase in the number of NHPI incarcerated in the state.⁷

A 2010 study by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs found that Hawai'i holds 50% of its prisoners on the continental United States, and that Native Hawaiians make up a disproportionate number of those sent to out-of-state prison facilities (41%).⁸

Data on Native Hawaiians/Kanaka Maoli in the criminal legal system has been analyzed for 50 years and nothing has changed, except to say it has gotten worse. It is no secret that jails and prisons in Hawai'i are overflowing with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander peoples.

² U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics. 2010. Note: BJS's official measure of prison population is based on the count of prisoners under jurisdiction or legal authority of state and federal correctional officials, which includes local jails, halfway houses, and other facilities. However, race data by jurisdiction is not available. Prisoner race data in this report includes all those who are held under custody, which includes those in private and publicly owned state and federal facilities.

³ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Annual Survey of Jails. 2010.

⁴ Glaze, Lauren E., and Thomas P. Bonczar. "Probation and Parole in the United States, 2010." U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics, 2010; U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census SF2, Table DP-1.

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics, 2002–2010.

⁷ Id.

⁸ See FN 1

HCR 112 resolves that the House, and Senate concurring, resolves to:

1. **DECLARE** racism as a public health crisis;
2. **RECOGNIZE** the importance of educational opportunities, training, and continued learning aimed at understanding and addressing systemic racism, and of the need for our collective effort to dismantle all forms of racism at all levels and its impacts on the delivery and implementation of human and social services, economic development, health care, and public safety;
3. **ADOPT** a Hawai'i-based, culturally-based, health justice framework that will further **combat the continuation of racism with policymaking** while also **promoting racial equity** (emphasis added) ; and
4. **URGE** the Governor to also declare racism a public health crisis and direct the departments to assess how systemic racism exists in the departments' policies, programs, and services, and to take all steps necessary to address racism in promoting racial equity.

The Aloha Spirit Law from Chapter 5 of Hawai'i Revised Statutes:

*§ 5-7.5 "Aloha Spirit". (a) "Aloha Spirit" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, "Aloha", the following **unuhi laulā loa** may be used:*

"Akahai", meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness;

"Lōkahi", meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony;

"Olu'olu" meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness;

"Ha'aha'a", meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty;

"Ahonui", meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance.

These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaii's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawai'i. "Aloha" is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. "Aloha" means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. "Aloha" is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. "Aloha" means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

(b) In exercising their power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people, the legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, executive officers of each department, the chief justice, associate justices, and judges of the appellate, circuit, and district courts may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the "Aloha Spirit". [L 1986, c 202, § 1]

Hawai'i has proven itself to be an outlier in the criminal legal arena, so tackling racism in a system dependent upon racism will be a challenge unless there is a real and HONEST effort to confront the terrible policies that have come to the fore in the COVID pandemic.

While most jurisdictions are realizing the unsustainability of harsh sentencing, Hawai'i continues to push enhanced sentencing, mandatory minimums, and building even more human cages this session.

COVID has exposed the disparity in the health system with data showing that Kanaka Maoli and Pacific Islanders at an elevated risk for infection along with the glaring health statistics that are already known.

We suggest that in the criminal legal realm, the recommendations of the HCR 85 Correctional Reform Task Force⁹ is a great place to start. Implementing those researched and evidence-based recommendations and then funding them will send a strong message to the community that you are serious.

Community Alliance on Prisons hopes that the legislature is serious about dismantling racism. The community will be watching closely to see if this is just lip service or a real commitment by the state to undue their draconian and unfair policies that have greased the way for people to become entangled in the criminal legal processing system web.

We hope you are serious.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

⁹ Creating Better Outcomes, Safer Communities, Final Report of the House Concurrent Resolution 85 Task Force on Prison Reform to the Hawai'i Legislature 2019 Regular Session, December 2018.

https://www.courts.state.hi.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/HCR-85_task_force_final_report.pdf



DATE: 28 March 2021

To: Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

Re: Strong Support of HCR 112 DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Hrg: Monday March 29, 2021, 2:00PM conference room 325 via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 400 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is advocating for equity in all policies.

HPHA strongly supports HCR 112, declaring racism as a public health crisis. The World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control, the American Association of Public Health, major medical associations such as the American Medical Association, and branches of the Hawai'i State Department of Health have recognized racism's influence on public health. Simply stated, racism is a threat to public health. In addition to causing threats due to violence and hate crimes, systemic racism and social injustice also contribute to health inequities among marginalized communities. This is especially true among the Native Hawaiian population, which experience significant health inequities and are overrepresented in prisons and jails. The Native Hawaiian population has endured a history of trauma due to injustices by colonizers and today experiences the impact of systemic racism.

We urge you to support HCR 112 and commit to reducing health disparities for Native Hawaiians and other groups by identifying and addressing social determinants of health and dismantling racist policies. We urge you to recognize the importance of educational opportunities and training about systemic racism so that others understand the issue of systemic racism in human and social services, economic development, health care and public safety throughout our state.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Leocadia Conlon'.

J. Leocadia Conlon, PhD, MPH, PA-C
Legislative Committee Co-Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice
In Support of HCR 112 / HR 90 – DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Monday, March 29, 2021, 2:00 PM, Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HCR112/HR90**, Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis.

HCR112/HR90 will begin a process of healing from the consequences of continued racism and historical trauma from the colonization of Hawai'i. This resolution:

- affirms that the right to the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental human right;
- recognizes that racism is a social determinant of health and influences the public health of marginalized peoples;
- identifies root causes of racism in Hawai'i, namely the colonization of the Native Hawaiian people;
- commits our state to address systemic racism by dismantling all forms of racism at all levels, especially its impacts on the delivery and implementation of human and social services, economic development, health care, and public safety; and
- directs our state utilize a Hawai'i-based, culturally-based, health justice framework that will further combat the continuation of racism with policymaking while also promoting racial equity.

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice works to change systems that perpetuate injustice and inequality in order to build a more socially and economically just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve social and economic security and to fulfill their potential. **Symptoms of inequity include disproportionate rates for certain populations of poor health, financial insecurity, restricted social mobility, houselessness and incarceration.** In Hawai'i, the populations most impacted are Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

Racism is an explicit or implicit oppression of a group of people based on their race or ethnicity. Racism can be carried out by individuals, but most often it is a systemic, collective social phenomena expressed in laws, public policies, institutions of power, education and more. Racism is perpetuated through codified policies and ingrained narratives and beliefs that blame the oppressed group for the negative outcomes of systemic racism. **Racism privileges not only one race above all others, but also privileges one culture above all others,** discounting the legitimacy of the oppressed population's culture, thoughts, beliefs, and solutions.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

In Hawai‘i, **the privileged culture is the western, American culture that gained superiority through colonization – a systematic dismantling of the population, culture, and sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people through disease, coercion, and violence.** Westerners pushed for land privatization, which alienated the Native Hawaiian people from a keystone of their culture and allowed America to capture vast swaths of land upon annexation. Westerners overthrew the Hawaiian Kingdom and placed the American government and businessmen in power to subjugate and silence the Native Hawaiian people. Then, Americans protected their power by enacting policies that would dismantle elements and legitimacy of the Native Hawaiian culture, such as banning ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in schools.

Although some may say colonization happened so long ago and is not relevant today, **many health professionals and scholars have attributed disproportionate burden of the physical and mental health conditions to the experience of historical trauma by Native Hawaiians.** Historical trauma is a type of trauma caused by the experience of a traumatic event or transgressions. It is cumulative and transgenerational in nature and causes psychological harm to an individual, group, or entire generation. These traumatic events and transgressions include interpersonal violence, displacement from traditional lands, cultural loss or degradation, compulsory acculturation strategies (e.g., banning of native language), and other forms of discrimination. The psychological consequences are depression, anxiety, anger, shame, grief, and social isolation.¹

Addressing racism and historical trauma is a public health imperative that must be sought today because it impacts so many Hawai‘i residents (e.g., over a third of Hawai‘i’s children under age 18 are part- or full-Native Hawaiian).² To do so, we can dig into the source of Hawai‘i’s racism – colonization – and trace its roots to the institutions, laws and policies perpetuating the racism. We can stem the consequences of racism by dismantling all its forms at all levels, especially its impacts on the delivery and implementation of human and social services, economic development, health care, and public safety.

As HCR112/HR90 directs the legislature, adopting a Hawai‘i-based, culturally-based, health justice framework to combat the continuation of racism in policymaking is vital because western centric policies have not fully addressed consequences of racism in the past. **Solutions based on the Native Hawaiian culture have been shown to build health, strength, and resiliency.** We can look to numerous Native Hawaiian serving organizations and programs for solutions. With a health justice framework, we can ensure all policies see health and protection from racism as human rights.

In Hawai‘i, other ethnic populations face discrimination, cultural loss and poverty too, notably immigrants and migrants from other Pacific nations, the Philippines and Southeast Asia. Fortunately, as byproduct of finding and addressing root causes of racism for Native Hawaiians, **we can dismantle racism for other marginalized peoples and offer a space for their cultural solutions to thrive.**

¹ Joseph Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula, Scott K. Okamoto and Barbara W. K. Yee. “Special Issue Introduction: Advancing Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Health.” American Psychological Association, Asian American Journal of Psychology. 2019, Vol. 10, No. 3, 197-205

² U.S. Census, 2011-2015 American Community Survey

Racism threatens the wellbeing and potential for all Hawai'i residents. We need a new commitment to combat systemic issues arising from racism. So, we urge the committee to **PASS HCR112/HR90**. We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.



Young Progressives Demanding Action
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828

March 29, 2021

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
RE: Testimony in support of HCR112

Dear Representatives,

Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA) **strongly supports** HCR112, which would declare racism a public health crisis.

Since 2019, policymakers in more than 50 American municipalities and three states have formally highlighted racism as a public health crisis. On September 3, 2020, Rep. Ayanna Pressley introduced [the Anti-Racism in Public Health Act](#) in Congress.

These kinds of declarations are an important first step in combating racism and ending White Supremacy, because they redirect the focus of policymakers onto the systems and structures of oppression. This prevents policymakers from dismissing the inequities and inequalities of our society as simply being the fault of individuals.

We must name the structural foundations of racist policies in areas such as housing, employment and the criminal-legal system. We must acknowledge the very real, very detrimental effects these policies have had on racial disparities in health outcomes and life expectancy.

This stark reality is reflected in the COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate effect on communities of color. As of late July, Black people, who make up just 13 percent of the U.S. population, accounted for a quarter of COVID-19 deaths, according to an article in the Autumn 2020 issue of *Harvard Medicine*.

Across the country, local and state leaders are declaring racism a public health crisis or emergency. These declarations are an important first step in the movement to advance racial

equity and justice but they *must* be followed by allocation of resources and strategic action in concrete pieces of legislaion to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron

Board President & Secretary, 2020–2021

action@ypdahawaii.org



Hawai'i

Committees: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, March 29, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Place: Via videoconference
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in Support of H.C.R. 112, Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes **in support of H.C.R. 112**, which declares racism as a public health crisis and urges the State to commit to assisting in dismantling structural and systemic racism in Hawai'i.

Pervasive racial discrimination in all areas of life – housing, education, healthcare, food access, employment – results in health outcome disparities for Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Systemic and structural racism's impact on public health existed long before COVID-19, but as the resolution states, the pandemic "has revealed, reaffirmed, and cast in sharp relief the exigent nature of these pre-existing inequities caused by systemic racism." In Hawai'i, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino communities have faced disproportionate rates of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations. Structural racism is the root of this harm.

Racism's influence on public health has led many groups, such as the American Public Health Association, to call for racism to be declared a public health crisis. Eight states, 100 municipalities, and 76 counties have done so. This resolution urges the Governor to also declare racism a public health crisis in Hawai'i, and to assess how systemic racism exists in the departments' policies, programs, and services, and to take all steps necessary to address racism in promoting racial equity.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Hawai'i urges the Committee to support this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mandy Fernandes'.

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:49:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters statewide, we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR112.

Mahalo for your kind attention.

Dave Mulinix

Hawaii State Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 8:30:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Chung-Do	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Jane Chung-Do and I am an Associate Professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Office of Public Health Studies. As a public health educator and researcher, I have been teaching public health graduate students and conducting community participatory research with Native Hawaiian families and communities for over 10 years. I am writing to you today as a resident of Hawai'i and as a mother of two young children. As a settler of Hawai'i, I have the privilege and responsibility to do my part in promoting equity, justice, and optimal wellbeing for all, especially the people who have ancestral roots to these islands. I urge you to please consider this message as my testimony in **strong support** of HCR112 / HR90 , which declares racism as a public health crisis. People of color all across the globe face pervasive health disparities that are often preventable. This includes indigenous communities, such as Native Hawaiians, as well as other Pacific Islanders, African-Americans, Latinx, and Asian communities. Racism is at the root of many of the social, economic, and educational disparities that lead to poor health outcomes and shorter life expectancies in these communities. Hawai'i is the most multi-racial population in the nation and yet Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders experience the poorest health outcomes due to systemic racism. Because of our country's long history of racist policies, the racist legacies endure in our institutions that still stand as barriers to our communities of color. For example, although Whites and Native Hawaiians have comparable rates of cancer, Native Hawaiians are less likely to receive early treatment and are more likely to die from cancer. Numerous of studies as well as the Institute of Medicine have found that much of these patterns are due to racism that operate on multiple levels. Not only are communities of color less likely to have stable employment that provide robust health insurance, they are more likely to face discrimination in the healthcare system, have their symptoms dismissed by their physicians, and are less likely to be referred to treatment services. This in turn leads to people of color to distrust the healthcare system. People of color are over-represented in the criminal justice system and under-represented in leadership positions. The recent attention on racial injustice among African Americans and the dramatic increase in hate crimes among Asian communities demonstrate how living in this reality erodes the health and well-being of the people of color. The World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control, branches of the Hawai'i State Department of Health, the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, the Hawai'i State Judiciary, Papa Ola Lāhine, 'Ahahui o Nā Kauhā, 8 and

Hawai'i American Civil Liberties Union are among the many to 9 have already recognized racism's influence on public health. Please consider joining these voices and standing up for justice and equity. Mahalo for your time.

Jane Chung-Do, DrPH

HEARING OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ATTN: CHAIR MARK M. NAKASHIMA & VICE CHAIR SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI

Testimony **Strongly Supporting** HR 90 and HCR 112
Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis

March 29, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Alexa Deike and I am testifying in **strong support** of HR90 and HCR112. I am a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. This resolution is long overdue as the role of racism as a public health crisis has been long established and documented.

This resolution would declare racism as a public health crisis, as well as provide ways to dismantle racism through education, and adopting a Hawai'i-based, culturally-based health justice framework.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Alexa Deike

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 5:51:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

The health of the people of our Hawai`i communities is something that we ALL must actively pursue. Racism affects body, mind and soul. Therefore it is an all encompassing disease. White privilege, a gift from the colonizer, lurks in our community. It shows itself in our schools, work places and definitely in the halls of the Capitol. This should be a 100% supported vote by every single legislator.

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 12:29:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harley Broyles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HCR112 / HR90, a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. This resolution is long overdue as the role of racism as a public health crisis has been long established and documented.

This resolution would declare racism as a public health crisis, as well as provide ways to dismantle racism through education, and adopting a Hawai'i-based, culturally-based health justice framework. Racism exists in every space of every community, implicitly and explicitly. People of color experience racism daily, whether that be by explicit racism, microaggressions and/or have to withstand implicit biases of others. These are experiences which impact individual growth, self worth, and outlook on society. If that doesn't say "public health crisis" then I do not know what does.

I urge the Committee to PASS HCR112 / HR90. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Harley M. Broyles

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 9:38:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha JHA Committee,

As a longtime public health professional and a citizen concerned with racial equity, I write in strong support of HCR112/HR90.

As has been shown over the past year, health services like vaccines and testing are inequitably provided for communities based on race and class and other factors. I urge the Legislature to ensure that the government of Hawai'i represents all people, especially in regards to public health. Public health is inextricably tied to economic robustness and social cohesion, making the pernicious impact of racism on health a state priority.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 10:40:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cu Ri Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HCR112 / HR90, a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. This resolution is long overdue as the role of racism as a public health crisis has been long established and documented.

This resolution would declare racism as a public health crisis, as well as provide ways to dismantle racism through education, and adopting a Hawai'i-based, culturally-based health justice framework.

Hawai'i is not immune to the detrimental effects of racism. Racism is pervasive and deeply rooted in all institutions - from our health care and education to our criminal justice system. It is quite literally killing marginalized people. The disproportionate impact COVID-19 continues to have on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders is only a recent example of how racism harms our community. This resolution which acknowledges racism as an epidemic is a first step. We must continue to do more to address this fundamental source of inequity.

I urge the Committee to PASS HCR112 / HR90. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cu Ri Lee

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 11:11:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terina Faagau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HCR112 / HR90, a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis.

To date, more than 90 cities, 65 counties, and five states have declared racism as a public health crisis. The State of Hawai'i is not included in that list. This resolution is long overdue as the role of racism as a public health crisis has been long established and documented. This resolution would declare racism as a public health crisis, as well as provide ways to dismantle racism through education, and adopting a Hawai'i-based, culturally-based health justice framework.

I urge the Committee to PASS HCR112 / HR90. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HCR112 / HR90
Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis

SUPPORT

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

March 29, 2021

Aloha e Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo for hearing this important resolution that would declare racism as a public health crisis. I submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR112/HR90. Hawai‘i is behind, in comparison to many other states and cities to make such a declaration, but this resolution skillfully includes many best practices that includes (1) a clear definition of racism, (2) the acknowledgment of Hawai‘i’s unique history that provides the opportunity for truth and reconciliation, and (3) the adoption of a Hawai‘i-based, culturally-based, health justice framework.¹

Centering Hawai‘i to Clearly Define Racism in Hawai‘i

While many advocates see this resolution as long overdue, I particularly appreciate and commend this resolution centering Hawai‘i and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the landscape of how racism operationalizes in Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i’s unique history, generational trauma, and experience with racism warrants a Hawai‘i-centered, Hawai‘i-specific description of how racism impacts its people, particularly Native Hawaiians. Further, the impacts of racism are often missing, or discussed minimally, in the national discourse. This resolution provides a much needed Hawai‘i-centered perspective while also providing a tailored, Hawai‘i-based response to address and dismantle racism.

Acknowledging Hawai‘i’s Unique History towards Truth & Reconciliation

This resolution would provide needed acknowledgment, in roads towards reconciliation that is important for my life’s mission towards improving Native Hawaiian health through ‘āina justice and advocacy. As the resolution notes, racism operationalizes across various social determinants of health. While there are various noteworthy existing Hawai‘i efforts that calls for equity in education and health, there is a lack of acknowledgment of racism, let alone racism as a social determinant of health. Without acknowledging the role of racism as a social determinant of health, we will continue to fall short in truly achieving reconciliation or equitable justice.

In addition to acknowledging racism as a social determinant of health, the following passage further illustrates the ways in which institutionalized racism operates:

¹ The Network for Public Health Law, DECLARATIONS OF RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS: UTILIZING DECLARATIONS TO ADDRESS HEALTH INEQUITIES 17 (2021).

A useful concept for understanding this legacy is that of “institutionalized racism” put forward by Dr. Camara Jones. Jones defines institutionalized racism as “differential access to the goods, services, and opportunities of society by race. **Institutionalized racism is normative, sometimes legalized, and often manifests as inherited disadvantage. It is structural, having been codified in our institutions of custom, practice, and law, so there need not be an identifiable perpetrator.** Indeed, institutionalized racism is often evident as inaction in the face of need.” **Institutionalized racism causes unhealthy neighborhoods by systematically starving certain communities of access to key social goods, such as education, health care, adequate housing, recreational amenities, etc., thereby directly creating adverse social and physical environments within these communities.**²

This fundamental acknowledgment and understanding is necessary to recognize the problem. It is through acknowledging racism as a social determinant of health, and how institutionalized racism operates through policies and laws, and then result with unhealthy neighborhoods that gets us closer to dismantling institutionalized racism.

Hawai‘i’s Unique History Warrants a Hawai‘i-Based, Culturally-Based Health Justice Framework

Hawai‘i’s unique history and the unique impacts of racism on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders further gives rise for a culturally-based, Hawai‘i-based health justice framework to remedy and dismantle institutionalized racism as the resolution prescribes. Hawai‘i researchers further affirm the need for a Hawai‘i-based, culturally-based approach to address racism here in Hawai‘i.³ While inclusion of communities that have been disparately impacted by racism is necessary, we must also acknowledge the white supremacist structures in which they are being integrated. The adoption of a health justice framework would not only address Hawai‘i’s unique situation, but also go beyond inclusion with addressing the very structures and systems in which we perpetuate, are upheld in equity.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to **PASS** HCR112/HR90. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha ‘āina,

Sharde Mersberg Freitas, Esq., MPH

² Hofrichter, Richard, TACKLING HEALTH INEQUITIES THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE: A HANDBOOK FOR ACTION 124 (2006).

³ Kaholokula J.K., Miyamoto R.E.S., Hermosura A.H., Inada M. (2020) Prejudice, Stigma, and Oppression on the Behavioral Health of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. In: Benuto L., Duckworth M., Masuda A., O'Donohue W. (eds) Prejudice, Stigma, Privilege, and Oppression. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-35517-3_7

Sunday, March 28th, 2021

RE: Testimony in Support of HCR 112 and HR 90 - Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR112 and HR90, both of which effectively declare racism as a public health crisis in the state of Hawai'i. I believe that these resolutions are required, overdue and a critical step in addressing standing racial inequities throughout our state.

While this resolution is only a first step, it provides the necessary framework and acknowledgement to begin making meaningful progress on the state-level to begin addressing historical and contemporary forms of racial discrimination and inequality prevalent throughout Hawai'i. The designation of racism as a public health crisis is the proper response to the current status quo of racism found in so many overlapping areas of our community.

I strongly encourage the members of the Committee to **PASS** HCR112 and HR 90 and continue to take additional affirmative steps moving forward to develop a more robust and proactive plan to eliminate racism in all state-level agencies, offices and functions.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Troy Wallace Ballard

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
From: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN
RE: HCR112 Racism as a Public Health Crisis (In Support)
HEARING Monday, March 29, 2021 at 2:00 PM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Dear Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair, Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wendy Gibson-Viviani R.N. and I am an active member of the American Cannabis Nurses Association and the Cannabis Nurses Network. We are well aware that racism has created a systematic disparity of treatment of Indigenous communities and people of color in many areas of society, including the criminal justice and health care systems.

We have seen the collateral damage done by the violent, racist War on Drugs--mainly by criminalizing possession of marijuana—as evidenced by the mass incarceration of hundreds of thousands of people each year. Although they make up a smaller percentage of the population, larger numbers of people of color are arrested and incarcerated and remain involved in the criminal justice system—than Caucasians.

Indigenous people have been traumatized (for generations) by colonialism and ensuring oppression and other injustices. Hawaii is just one example of an area that experienced the damaging effects of colonialism including experiencing some of the poorest health outcomes.

I agree that we need to recognize the influence that racism has on public health, just as has been recognized by the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health, Judiciary, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, Papa Ola LOKahi, 'Ahahui o Na Kauka, American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i, and many others.

Please support this important bill.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN
Kailua Resident
Oahu Resident for 30 years.

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 12:47:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Racism is a social determinant of health that has significantly impacted the well-being of our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities among others. Mahalo nui for your consideration and support of this measure.

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 1:29:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tetine Sentell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This testimony is in support of HCR112/HR90 to recognize racism as a public health crisis in the state of Hawai'i.

As the American Public Health Association (APHA) notes: “Across the country, local and state leaders are declaring racism a public health crisis or emergency. These declarations are an important first step in the movement to advance racial equity and justice and must be followed by allocation of resources and strategic action.”
<https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/health-equity/racism-and-health/racism-declarations>

Hawai'i is not even visible on the national APHA map on this critical issue, despite leadership in many important public health areas that build and sustain health equity.

I am writing as a private citizen for this testimony. I serve as a professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Chair of the Office of Public Health Studies in the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health. The mission of the Office of Public Health Studies is to advance the health of the peoples of Hawai'i, the nation, and the Asia-Pacific region through knowledge, discovery, innovation, engagement, inclusion, and leadership. Understanding the impact that racism and discrimination have on individual and public health from policies, systems, and interpersonal relationships is an important area of action and scholarship with much work remaining to untangle these effects and to build meaningful solutions.

For the Hawai'i legislature to recognize the urgency of this matter and begin work to address the impact of systemic and institutionalized racism in laws, policies, and political and social structures are important steps for community wellbeing and better public health for our state.

Thank you for your time.

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 11:36:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kalena Charlene Holani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Look at all the stats pacific islanders are the highest group in prisons, least with high education, most homeless, highest rates of obesity, high blood pressure infant mortality rates and diabetes, and much more that show cases the Social economic horrors pacific islanders deal with daily! This is not individual cases this is systematic! We NEED HCR112 we need change!

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 7:01:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grace Tsubaki-Noguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HCR112 /HR90, a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. This resolution is long overdue as the role of racism as a public health crisis has been long established and documented.

This resolution will provide ways to dismantle racism through education by adopting a Hawai'i based, culturally-based health justice framework.

As an educator, I deeply care about this issue. Currently, we see that the the achievement gap is particularly effecting Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Yet, we also know that culturally based programs such as 'Ä• ina-based learning can help bridge those gaps. I hope that the passing of this resolution will be a step toward equity as we acknowledge the harms of racism and rethink approaches to community health and care.

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 8:52:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamaile Maldonado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian attorney, policy advocate, academic, daughter, sister, and friend, I can tell you that **racism is a public health crisis** and I **SUPPORT HCR112/HR90** as an appropriate first step for the State of Hawai'i to take to 1) tell the truth of the injustice that has happened in Hawai'i, 2) acknowledge that the harms of colonization are ongoing and perpetuated by present structures of power and governance and in the way resources are managed, and 3) prepare for the hard and necessary work of reconciliation, in support of Native Hawaiian self-determination.

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Submitted on: 3/29/2021 10:20:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ekini Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In Support of HCR112!! Every Legislator should be in 100% SUPPORT of this!!!

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:10:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakāleia, O'ahu. I'm writing in support of HCR112.

The resolution Rep. Adrian Tam mentioned in his speech at the #StopAsianHate rally and march on Saturday, which would declare racism a public health crisis, has a hearing TODAY at 2 p.m.

Submit testimony in support of HCR112 at www.capitol.hawaii.gov before Noon today!

Talking Points:

Since 2019, policymakers in more than 50 American municipalities and three states have formally highlighted racism as a public health crisis. On September 3, 2020, Rep. Ayanna Pressley introduced the Anti-Racism in Public Health Act in Congress.

These kinds of declarations are an important first step in combating racism and ending White Supremacy, because they redirect the focus of policymakers onto the systems and structures of oppression. This prevents policymakers from dismissing the inequities and inequalities of our society as simply being the fault of individuals.

We must name the structural foundations of racist policies in areas such as housing, employment and the criminal-legal system. We must acknowledge the very real, very detrimental effects these policies have had on racial disparities in health outcomes and life expectancy.

This stark reality is reflected in the COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate effect on communities of color. As of late July, Black people, who make up just 13 percent of the U.S. population, accounted for a quarter of COVID-19 deaths, according to an article in the fall 2020 issue of Harvard Medicine.

Please support HCR112.

me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:14:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:20:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello, my name is Kristen Young and I am a Honolulu resident, born and raised on O'ahu. As a 4th-generation Asian living in Hawai'i today, my 'Asianness' has not been met with many barriers or discrimination here, but I refuse to believe the lie that Hawai'i is a racial paradise just because I am minimally affected.

Since 2019, policymakers in more than 50 American municipalities and three states have formally highlighted racism as a public health crisis. On September 3, 2020, Rep. Ayanna Pressley introduced the Anti-Racism in Public Health Act in Congress.

These kinds of declarations are an important first step in combating racism and ending White Supremacy, because they redirect the focus of policymakers onto the systems and structures of oppression. This prevents policymakers from dismissing the inequities and inequalities of our society as simply being the fault of individuals.

Here in Hawai'i, we like to claim our aloha spirit. It may be true that people are nicer and less open with their prejudice and hate so we think that "racism isn't so bad here," but racism exists beyond the interpersonal level and it thrives in the structures of our society.

We must name the structural foundations of racist policies in areas such as housing, employment and the criminal-legal system. We must acknowledge the very real, very detrimental effects these policies have had on racial disparities in health outcomes and life expectancy.

This stark reality is reflected in the COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate effect on communities of color. As of late July, Black people, who make up just 13 percent of the U.S. population, accounted for a quarter of COVID-19 deaths, according to an article in the fall 2020 issue of Harvard Medicine. According to data from the Hawaii Department of Health released in summer 2020, 16% of Hawaii's coronavirus deaths were non-Hawaiian Pacific Islanders who make up only 4% of the population; 16% of Hawaii coronavirus deaths occurred in the Japanese community, which makes up 15% of the state population; 24% of all deaths were from the Filipino community, which makes up 16% of the state population. (info from a [Civil Beat article](#))

Looking at the criminal-legal system, Hawai'i incarcerates a higher percentage of people than many other wealthy countries do, and a high percentage of those incarcerated are Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, or Black.

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/HI.html>

Racism is a public health crisis, whether or not we declare it as one. In Hawai'i, we are lucky to have communities made up of people of all ethnicities and races and places. We must choose to not only see what makes us similar and brings us together, but also acknowledge the differences that make us unique, which sometimes come with struggles and unwarranted challenges.

I support HCR112 and I hope you will, too. Thank you for your consideration.

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 1:50:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donavan Albano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this measure to declare racism a public health crisis.

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Submitted on: 3/29/2021 2:32:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry boothe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to testify in SUPPORT of HCR112 / HR90, a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. This resolution is long overdue as the role of racism as a public health crisis has been long established and documented.

Structural, historic, economic and political racism has created racial disparities in healthcare access, treatment and health outcomes (e.g. mortality rates, life expectancy, cancer rates, asthma rates, mental health rates).

Intrapersonal and internal racism is correlated with hyper-tention, depression, mental illness, suicide, police use and amount of force and aussalt/murder (hate crimes). Years of life are stolen from the judicial system creating racial disparities in policing, sentencing lengths and exoneration rates due to bias among the officers, jury, prosecutors and judges. Altogether these issues exacerbate issues of poverty, homelessness, crime, and health of the entire community of all colors.

This resolution would declare racism as a public health crisis, as well as provide ways to dismantle racism through education, and adopting a Hawai'i-based, culturally-based health justice framework. What this bill decides is the humanity of those that are darker and/or indigenous. The fact the bill is being considered tells us we must act. This issue effects the whole community no matter the color of skin as we must learn to better work as one for our collective futures. I urge the Committee to PASS HCR112 / HR90. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Henry Boothe

HCR-112

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 2:42:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
caitlin duquette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HCR112 / HR90, a resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. This resolution is long overdue as the role of racism as a public health crisis has been long established and documented.

This resolution would declare racism as a public health crisis, as well as provide ways to dismantle racism through education, and adopting a Hawai'i-based, culturally-based health justice framework. The impact this potentially has on my community may grant us access to health and healing through methods that do not perpetuate harm.

I urge the Committee to PASS HCR112 / HR90. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Caitlin Duquette