

HR-90

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 9:41:37 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 HR 90. 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/>.



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.

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 last week, an armed white male murdered six 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 · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org



HIPHI Board

Michael
Robinson, MBA, MA
Chair
Hawaii Pacific Health

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
Secretary
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Native Hawaiian
Research Office

Kilikina Mahi, MBA
Treasurer & Vice Chair
KM Consulting LLC

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Retired, Daniel K. Inouye
College of Pharmacy

Debbie Erskine
Kamehameha Schools

Keawe'aimoku
Kaholokula, PhD
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Department of
Native Hawaiian Health

Mark Levin, JD
William S. Richardson School
of Law

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH
John A. Burns School of
Medicine, Department of
Pediatrics

Rachel Novotny,
PhD, RDN, LD
University of Hawaii at Manoa,
College of Tropical Agriculture
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.



DATE: 20 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 HR 90 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 500 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 HR 90, 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 HR 90 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.

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

March 28th

RE: TESTIMONY for HCR 112 / HR90

Chair Mark M. Nakashima, Vice-Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Crystal Luag Ntxhi Vang. I am a first-generation American born daughter to two Hmong refugees of the Secret War and I am a doctoral student in the Public Health program at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa. **I am writing in support of HCR 112 / HR 90, Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis.**

According to The American Public Health Association and while studying here, I have learned “Public Health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work, and play.” Anything that jeopardizes the health of people and communities where they live, learn, work and play should be considered a threat to public health. As an Asian American woman, I can testify that racism has jeopardized myself, the communities I belong to, and where I live, learn, work, and play. Racism changes the way I experience this world, how I received care from the healthcare systems, my sharing voice in school when I talk about my experiences of racism towards me, how comfortable I am to walk alone in broad daylight as an Asian woman during the pandemic because of the rise of racism towards the Asian community. If racism can affect not only me but whole communities to the point where they do not feel safe in the spaces they belong to, their mental health is at stake, and they cannot perform daily activities like others then these are not acts of racism alone, this is a public health crisis now. Please, let us come together and declare racism as a public health crisis so we can work together towards a better future for us, for others, and our children.

I want to also THANK YOU for your time today and your continuation of supporting and having the best interest of the citizens of Hawai‘i. I am available and more than happy to discuss further or address any questions or comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at crystalvaj91@gmail.com or 763-898-0434.

Most Sincerely,

Crystal L. Vang

Crystal L. Vang
(763)898-0434
Crystalvaj91@gmail.com

HR-90

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 9:38:46 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)

HR-90

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 1:52:17 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Medina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this testimony in support of HR90 to recognize racism as a social determinant of health and furthermore a public health crisis of its own. As a society, it is unfortunate that systemic racism has manifested so deeply for so long, that today we are proposing a bill that merely fights to acknowledge its existence. The evidence is undeniable, the lives lost, endangered, and denied basic American rights are uncountable for the damage brought by allowing racism to flourish for so long. It is my life's experience, growing up on the mainland, being constantly reminded of the invisible and very real boundaries that close off communities, schools, and individuals from basic necessities like easy access to medical providers, grocery stores, libraries, and green spaces.

This should not be the legacy of Hawai'i. Our legislators should not have to dig deep in their conscience or come to a grand paradigm shift to know that our poor, our sick, our underfed, our underpaid, our oppressed and our native Hawaiians and pacific islanders are one and the same. I urge every legislator who votes for this bill to take a walk through downtown and look at our laborers, security guards, gardeners, and low-wage workers. Look at our public schools. Look at our families on SNAP and using EBT at grocery stores. Our problems are not hidden, they are being ignored.

You, as legislators, have the responsibility to make changes for people in need. Generations of oppression have taken away the voices of the constituents you are sworn to serve. This is not a problem that HR90 will be able to fix, but this bill is a step toward rectifying the damage those before us have caused. I urge you all to support the passing of this bill and to begin the long overdue march toward an equitable Hawai'i.