

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

March 27, 2021

To: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair
And members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 8/HR 9 HD 1 URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ELEVATE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS BY INCORPORATING MORE DIVERSE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CLASSES AS CORE REQUIREMENTS THROUGHOUT SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 8/HR 9 HD 1 Urging the Board of Education and Department of Education to Elevate Hawaiian Language and Cultural Education in Public High Schools by Incorporating More Diverse Hawaiian Language and Cultural Classes as Core Requirements Throughout Secondary Education.

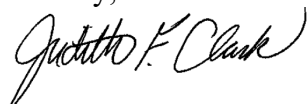
In October 2020, 55 youth gathered over a 3-day period to come to agreement on what the Hawaii Legislature needs to do to make our state a better place to live, learn, and work. More than 1,100 youth then voted to rank the priorities.

Providing more opportunities to study Hawaiian culture and language was one of the top priorities of the youth who participated in the Summit.

Hawaii Youth Services Network urges you to honor the voices of our youth by passing this resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director



HR-9-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 8:11:02 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support hr9 hd1

TESTIMONY

TO: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
FROM: Kilohana Haitzuka
DATE: March 29, 2021
RE: HR9 HD1 Relating to Cultural Education

Aloha mai kākou,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT of HR9 HD1**, which advocates for the Department of Education to expand ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i and Native Hawaiian (NH) cultural classes throughout secondary education. As a former high school teacher, and now researcher for NH health organizations that report on the impacts of cultural interventions and programming on life outcomes, I firmly believe in the benefits this resolution would have on our youth, specifically NH youth.

Presently, NH experience the worst health and socioeconomic disparities of the major ethnic groups in Hawai‘i, including lower life expectancy and increased mortality at younger ages from chronic health conditions (Braun et al., 2019). NH youth experience these health disparities through the prevalence of chronic physical and mental health conditions and risky health behaviors (Wu et al., 2019). Youth and adolescence is a critical period when students explore their sense of self and place (Spielman et al., 2020). In addition to the normal stressors of youth, NH youth have increased exposure to adversity, compounded with cultural and historical trauma that further impacts their psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual development (Sotero et al., 2006).

Past research supports that preventative efforts introduced during youth are more likely to decrease health and behavioral disparities in adulthood. ***HR9 HD1 is a preventative effort.*** Incorporating culture in interventions, programming, and curriculum has proven to be effective in improving the health and development of Indigenous youth (Okamoto et al., 2014). Culturally-focused curriculum minimizes dissonance caused by assimilation, reduces racial stressors, fosters identity development, and supports cultural values and knowledge that offer positive pathways for NH youth (Mayeda et al., 2014).

HR9 HD1 is important because education is a health factor. The Kānehō‘ālanī Report provided evidence of the increase in wellbeing for those who obtain college degrees, however only 12% of NH have received a post-secondary degree (OHA, 2017, p. 25). This suggests that NH engagement with education needs to occur at an earlier age to ensure continued post-secondary educational attainment. HR9 HD1 can increase NH youth engagement with education by providing a more culturally supportive environment that fosters NH youth development.

Increasing cultural education throughout secondary education will positively impact NH youth health and can inspire our youth to continue to post-secondary education. The higher level of education they attain, the higher their future income, which would allow NH to experience improved health outcomes in adulthood (OHA, 2017). Should the resolution materialize, the legislature and DOE would be contributing to the educational success and improvement of life outcomes for NH.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,
Kilohana Haitzuka