



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.C.R. 33  
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PRIMARY CARE AND RURAL HEALTH TO  
FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS WITH KEY COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL  
SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN WEST HAWAII AND MAJOR  
HEALTHCARE STAKEHOLDERS IN SENATE DISTRICT 3 TO ADDRESS THE  
HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE BY ALIGNING  
THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF KEY ORGANIZATIONS INTO ONE SHARED  
2030 HEALTH VISION PLAN**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 3/24/2021

Room Number: Via Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health does not have the resources to implement the
- 2 request outlined in the resolution and defers to the Governor's Executive Budget Request for
- 3 appropriation priorities.
  
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully offers comments on S.C.R. 33, which
- 5 requests the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH) to facilitate discussions with key
- 6 community health and social service organizations within West Hawaii and major healthcare
- 7 stakeholders in Senate District 3 to address the health and wellness needs of the most vulnerable
- 8 by aligning the goals and objectives of key organizations into a One Shared 2030 Health Vision
- 9 Plan for West Hawaii. While the Department appreciates the intent of this measure, this
- 10 resolution duplicates efforts that are already underway. For example, OPCRH is engaged with
- 11 community-based organizations on Hawaii Island such as the Hawaii Physician Shortage
- 12 Taskforce and Community First to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment for the
- 13 entire Hawaii County. In addition, OPCRH is collaborating with the Hawaii State Rural Health
- 14 Association to conduct a statewide inventory of existing/secondary qualitative data sources that
- 15 identify communities with the greatest unmet health care needs, disparities, health workforce
- 16 shortages, and other critical barriers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**LATE**

**SCR-33**

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 11:44:00 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/24/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Command	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please consider passing this legislation. West Hawaii is one of the fastest growing parts of Hawaii and it will be key to our state's economic future both in the short term during Covid recovery, and in the long term as we continue to grow. The shortage of health care in District 3 is becoming very evident, and this bill will be key in protecting our most vulnerable residents (children and kupuna) as we move toward a shared 2030 Health Vision Plan.

**LATE**

**SCR-33**

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 11:52:52 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/24/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
C. Kimo Alameda, PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a very important resolution that was prevented from the floor because of COVID. The intention is to bring Hawaii Island together as one with one vision. We are already in the works of collaborating in East Hawaii but this we need a resolution such as this to ensure that this momentum in collaboration continues throughout the island. It is a critical time for all of us in the health care network. Hawaii Primary Care and the Rural Health Association are two key government agencies that could provide oversight and guidance as we continue to move forward in our one-shared vision for serving the health needs of our Hawaii Island.

Please consider this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Island FQHCs, Community First Organization, the HMC Rural Health Clinics, the Hawaii Independent Physician Association, Hui Malama Ola Na Oiwī, Hawaii County, HOPE services, BISAC, the neighbor places, and other social service partners.

Mahalo,

C. Kimo Alameda, PhD

CEO Bay Clinic Inc.

**LATE**

**SCR-33**

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 12:03:55 PM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/24/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessanie Marques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SCR33: Requesting the office of primary care and rural health to facilitate discussions with key community health and social service organizations within west hawaii and major healthcare stakeholders in senate district 3 to address the health and wellness needs of the most vulnerable by aligning the goals and objectives of key organizations into one shared 2030 health vision plan.

I also, would like to include community based non profit and civic organizations be part of the discussions. Mahalo.

**LATE**

**SCR-33**

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 12:07:44 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/24/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Banning Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the giving me the opportunity for me to testify in support of SRC33/SR22.

This extremely important for me and my community to see reviewed and followed through with, as someone who has just moved back home with underlying conditions that needed to be treated by counselors outside of my community. I am frequently in search of treatment and medical needs in a small community like Kona and would like to the place the trust in my local government to make sure conversations are being had with local officials for the health and wellness of my friends, family and community at large.

Mahalo again for the opportunity as a community member to express my concerns.

Sincerely,

Banning Ramirez, Kalaoa, Big Island, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SCR-33**

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 12:11:14 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/24/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SCR33, requesting the development of a shared plan for health and wellness in West Hawai'i.

As a former employee of the Blue Zones Project, I've see what can happen when people and organizations work together. The impact is much more significant than what any of us could do on our own. Collaboration and agreement on a shared vision is a key component of getting things done.

Mahalo for your support.

Kirstin Kahaloa

**LATE**

**RE SCR33**

**Over the last 40 years I have been working in the medical profession in the State of Hawai'i and spent 10 of those years in the Marshall Islands working with the U.S. Public Health Service. I have been working with in the area of health disparities research for 25 years, and am intimately involved with training and developing primary care physicians for Hawai'i. Although brief, through this testimony, as an individual resident of Hawaii with expertise in these areas, I am in full support of this resolution as it will provide equitable resources of underserved and isolated communities throughout the State of Hawai'i.**

**Please contact me at any time should you have any further questions.**

**Neal A. Palafox MD MPH**

**Professor**

**Department of Family Medicine and Community Health**

**John A. Burns School of Medicine**

**University of Hawaii**

**Professor**

**Population Sciences in the Pacific Program (Cancer Prevention in the Pacific)**

**University of Hawaii Cancer Center**

**651 Ilalo Street, Suite 224**

**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

**LATE**

**SCR-33**

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 12:22:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/24/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Miyana Tohara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. Healthcare has been a challenge on the Big Island of Hawaii since the day I was born. We lack in well-educated, pono, long-term doctors, that we can count on. Almost ever specialist I have seen has only been around for no more than 1-2 years. A strong health network in West Hawaii would benefit us greatly. Thank you for your time.

Miyana Tohara of Kailua-Kona



**LATE**

**SCR-33**

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 12:27:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/24/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ryan Tito Gapelu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SCR 33 in that it provides a One Shared 2030 Health Vision Plan that will help improve the medical and health services as well as Telehealth and telemedicine services in rural and isolated areas throughout our state.

**LATE**

**SCR-33**

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 12:42:58 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/24/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elijah Aiona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohalole and members of the committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR33.

I believe that bringing in all of the health organizations to create a plan and collaborate would be beneficial to our district. We could really prosper off of their collective ideas and decisions.

Mahalo for your time,

Elijah Aiona