



HB1616
RELATING TO HEALTH PLANNING
House Committee on Finance

February 26, 2014

11:15 a.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB1616, which is a part of OHA's 2014 legislative package. HB1616 would modernize our State Planning Act to ensure the most efficient use of health planning resources, by targeting key services, interventions, programs and funding to address the social determinants of health of vulnerable communities, including Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Filipinos.

Current best practices in health planning call for supporting policies that address the social determinants of health for vulnerable communities, which in turn provide for the health and well-being of the overall population. Data show that Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Filipinos continue to have disparate health outcomes compared to the rest of the state population. These health disparities are correlated with social determinants of health such as housing, education, social services, leisure, individual rights, culture and public safety. Eliminating health disparities and achieving health equity across demographics is a national priority, as unequal health outcomes and disparate well-being are pervasive even when people have health insurance and medical care. Under this priority, health care transformation is understood as community transformation. This bill updates our State Planning Act to codify a commitment to addressing these health disparities.

The Kānaka Maoli concept of maui ola considers the entirety of our well-being as contributing to the health of ourselves and the larger community. Maui Ola (Health) is also one of OHA's six strategic priorities and represents our commitment to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians; accordingly, we seek to reduce the occurrence of chronic diseases within the Native Hawaiian community and improve family lifestyle choices.

In pursuit of this goal to improve health outcomes and support community transformation, OHA has committed more than \$4.3 million to support health programs for Native Hawaiians over the past three fiscal years. For the first time since inception, OHA increased its trust fund aid towards these core health services while simultaneously making an increased effort towards aligning social determinants of equity across our organizational priorities. OHA information shows that we have been able to diversify our community funding while indicating a real

commitment to impacting Maui Ola via direct service providers in a multi-disciplinary way. Our grantees have a proven track record of integrated and comprehensive programs that reach patients more frequently with quality, cost-effective services (both clinical and preventative).

Where we live and work has an impact on our health, long before we ever see a doctor. It's time we expand the way we think about health, and ensure health planning takes a holistic and efficient approach that helps healthy people stay healthy, before the onset of health issues that are much more difficult and expensive to address. **Allowing state agencies to include the social determinants of health in their policy planning and discretionary use of resources ensures modernized health planning, effective use of resources and better health outcomes for all.** HB1616 is one step in this direction.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1616. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

JADE T. BUTAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MILA KA'AHANUI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
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February 25, 2014

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair,
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair,
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Office of Community Services (OCS),
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)
Mila Kaahanui, Executive Director

Subject: HB1616, Relating to Health Planning

Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014
Time: 11:15 a.m.
Place: House Conference Room 308

POSITION: **Strongly Support**

The Office of Community Services (OCS), a State office administratively located in the DLIR, strongly supports this bill and respectfully offers comments.

I. OVERVIEW OF THIS PROPOSAL

This bill proposes to make changes to HRS §226-20, relating to health planning to add to the State's health planning objectives an additional focus on the disparities in health outcomes that adversely affect Hawaii's Native Hawaiian, Filipino, and other Pacific Islander communities.

II. CURRENT LAW

Chapter 226, HRS, sets forth comprehensive requirements for the State government with respect to planning for the future in a very broad range of considerations, including: population; the economy; the physical environment; facility systems such as water and waste management, transportation, telecommunications, and housing; and objectives and policies for socio-cultural advancement in health, education, social services, individual rights and personal well-being, culture, public safety and government.

However, this comprehensive list of goals and objectives does not specifically direct the State's health planners to focus on the fact that our Native Hawaiian, Filipino, and other Pacific Islander communities have disparate health outcomes when compared to the overall general population of the State.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The Office of Community Services (OCS) was created in 1985 by legislation codified at Chapter 371K, HRS, and tasked with the responsibility to plan, develop, provide, and coordinate programs serving Hawaii's immigrants, refugees, and economically disadvantaged individuals.

OCS reaffirms its prior testimony of strongly supporting this measure. OCS has conducted recent Needs Assessments that provide "on the ground" observations confirming the general commentary in the literature that Native Hawaiians, Filipinos, and other Pacific Islanders experience lower levels of health, and that their medical outcomes are lower, when contrasted to the health status and medical outcomes of the general population of our State.

Coming from this perspective, OCS believes that the addition of a specific focus on this disparity in health outcomes in Chapter 226 is long overdue. We are hopeful that this change, once enacted, will lead to actual enhancement of State government services in these areas. Accordingly, we look forward to passage of this bill as an important first step toward such improved goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.



KOKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES
2239 N. SCHOOL STREET ♦ HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819
♦ TEL: 808-791-9400 ♦ FAX: 808-848-0979 ♦ www.kkv.net

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

2/26/2014

Dear Leaders and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Kokua Kalihi Valley (KKV) strongly supports HB1616, which modernizes the state planning act in important ways to strategically focus our policies to build a stronger, healthier Hawai'i.

This measure adds the social determinants of health to the State planning act and encourages all state agencies, not just the Department of Health, to consider these most powerful factors that influence health outcomes.

KKV is proud of its 40 plus years of medical, dental and behavioral health programs to the residents of Kalihi. We know that access to affordable, high quality patient centered care is a good thing. But we also know from our work in the community, that this care is neither the only thing, nor indeed the most important thing influencing whether or not our families are healthy. A tremendous amount of scientific research, as well as our own experience in the community shows that health begins where we live, work and play. Our connections to our family, our neighbors, the 'Aina; our sense of self-efficacy and control over the circumstances of our lives; our freedom from the toxic stress of racism and discrimination; our belief in our own unique gifts and the means to share them; these are the things that most matter to being healthy. Indeed, health literally means 'wholeness'. And so we are equally proud of our work on the land with our community at Ho'oulu 'Aina, our work with our Kapuna in our Elder programs, and many other ways we partner with our community to build a healthier Kalihi.

At present, Hawai'i State Planning Statutes do not explicitly recognize the social determinants of health as key policy considerations for planning. This is especially detrimental to our most vulnerable communities and racial and ethnic groups that continue to experience health disparities.

Providing Medical & Dental Services, Health Education, Family Planning, Perinatal, WIC and Social Services to Kalihi Valley residents since 1972. Neighbors being neighborly to neighbors.

Racial and ethnic health disparity elimination is a national priority, and HB1616 makes it a state priority.

The State of Hawai'i deserves a measure like HB1616 to support a principled, comprehensive, and strategic plan for achieving health care equity.

Please PASS HB1616, and modernize the our State planning act to reflect current best practices. Please show your support for a healthier Hawai'i

--

David D Derauf MD MPH

Executive Director

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Providing Medical & Dental Services, Health Education, Family Planning, Perinatal, WIC and Social
Services to

Kalihi Valley residents since 1972. Neighbors being neighborly to neighbors.



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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 1616 Relating to Health Planning
House Committee on Finance
Scheduled for Hearing Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 11:15 AM, Room 308

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low-income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of House Bill 1616, which would add the identification of social determinants of health to reduce health disparities among Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos to the Hawai'i State Planning Act's objectives and policies.

As advocates on a variety of issues affecting low-income people, we recognize that many of these problems have a disproportionate impact on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. For example, looking at housing as a social determinant of health illustrates the complicated nature and disparate impact faced by Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. We face the highest overall rate of homelessness among the states and the highest housing costs. Digging deeper, neighborhoods with high populations of Native Hawaiians pay a dramatically higher amount of their income toward housing and transportation than other areas. We know that Native Hawaiians form a much higher percent of the homeless population. What are the implications of these troubling facts? Studies indicate that families who are cost-burdened by housing expenses reduce spending on food and medical care because they cannot make ends meet. Children face greater educational challenges and have poorer health indicators. These issues and many others require greater emphasis on social determinants of health to understand health outcomes and where to target our resources to address the most vulnerable populations.

An emphasis on social determinants of health for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders will help us address these social issues such as housing that affect our entire community. We need a dual commitment to the health of these communities and a focus on broader social determinants that affect all of us. The federal government has long recognized the need to specifically address Native Hawaiian health, but Hawai'i itself is yet to do so. It's time to follow suit, and this bill will move us in the right direction. Again, thank you for an opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 1616.



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Anna Dorman
AmeriCorps VISTA Member

Date: February 25, 2014
To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Aaron Ling Johanson Vice Chair, Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Finance
From: Brent Kakesako, Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development
Re: Strong Support for HB 1616, Relating to Health Planning

Aloha Representative Luke, Representative Johanson, Representative Nishimoto, and members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) strongly supports HB 1616, which would add social determinants of health to the Hawai'i State Planning Act's objectives and policies for health in order to reduce health disparities among Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

HACBED was established in 1992 as a nonprofit statewide intermediary to address social, economic, and environmental justice concerns through community-based economic development and asset building strategies. HACBED was one of the organizational contributors to the development of the 2013 report *Assessment and Priorities for Health & Well-Being in Native Hawaiians & Other Pacific Peoples*, focusing on the "Other Determinants of Health" section that highlighted the effects of economic, education, social, cultural, emotional, and spiritual factors on an individual's health. HACBED also facilitates the Ho'owaiwai Network, a network of 100+ organizations across the state committed to building genuine wealth for Hawai'i's families and determining an articulation of asset building that is place-based and culturally-grounded. As such, HACBED strongly supports the proposed bill, which would incorporate metrics that truly capture the holistic way families in Hawai'i view health.

HB 1616 would modernize the way health disparities are addressed by indigenizing those metrics and indicators to reflect what is truly important to families -- our relationships to each other, to 'āina, to our communities. The inclusion of social determinants of health at a policy level would ultimately lead to a more mindful use of resources to effectuate better health outcomes for families across the state as well as better support communities who are hardest hit and most significantly affected by health inequities and by extension address broader socio-economic justice issues.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)

Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:
House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

February 26, 2014
11:15 am
Conference Room 308

Re: HB 1616 Relating to Health Planning

Chair, Vice Chairs, and committee members thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill updating the Hawaii State Planning Act's objectives for health to include a commitment to eliminating health disparities by explicitly addressing social determinants of health among Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

Through the ACA, life expectancy and overall health have improved in recent years for most Americans, thanks in part to a better focus on preventive medicine and improving the quality of care. While Americans as a group are healthier and living longer, disparities persist. Accordingly, identifying social determinants help shape effective population and place based efforts and health policies to address health disparities.

In recognizing that the health disparities and needs are highest for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island populations in Hawaii, Kaiser supports identifying social determinants as an important component of health planning:

- KP conducted Hawaii's first community health needs assessment entitled Community Voices on Health in 2010. The assessment served as a call to action to improve health in Hawaii. A subsequent report entitled "Assessments and Priorities for Health & Well-Being in Native Hawaiians & Other Pacific Island Peoples" was created through collaboration between KP and the UH Dept of Native Hawaiian Health.

- In 2013, Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research, Hawaii launched an innovative \$1.5-million, three-year study that will provide valuable new information on the prevalence of diabetes and the factors contributing to differences in outcomes among specific population groups of Asians, Pacific Islanders and mixed-race individuals.

Thank you for your consideration.



TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FR: Mary Oneha, APRN, PhD
Chief Executive Officer, Waimānalo Health Center

Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014

RE: **Support for HB 1616** - RELATING TO HEALTH PLANNING.

The Waimānalo Health Center (WHC) **supports HB 1616**, adding to the Hawaii State Planning Act's objectives and policies for health the identification of social determinants of health to reduce health disparities among Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. The Waimānalo Health Center serves 47% Native Hawaiians primarily in the community of Waimānalo, experiencing significant physical, social, economic, educational, etc. challenges.

Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos continue to have life expectancies drastically lower than other groups and much higher rates of chronic disease. HB 1616 codifies a clear and unmistakable commitment to the health of this vulnerable population and to addressing the social determinants of health in general. HB 1616 is one step towards modernizing the way we address disparities, by providing support for state agencies that seek to include social determinants of health in their policy planning, leading to effective use of resources and better health outcomes for all, while ensuring communities hardest hit and most significantly affected by barriers to good health are not left behind.

The Waimānalo Health Center urges your support of **HB 1616**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Ho'okāko'o
Corporation

Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

**Testimony In Support of HB 1616
Relating to Health Planning**

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chairs, Scott Y. Nishimoto and Aaron Ling Johanson, and members of the Finance Committee:

Ho`okāko`o and its three schools: Kamaile Academy in Wai`anae, Kualapu`u School on the island of Moloka`i and Waimea Middle School on Hawai`i Island, would like to express our support of HB1616.

HB1616 and companion bill SB2103 represent an advancement towards modernizing the way we address health disparities, by providing support for state agencies that seek to include social determinants of health in their policy planning, which ultimately may lead to effective use of resources and better health outcomes for all, while ensuring communities hardest hit and most significantly affected by barriers to good health are not left behind.

The health of Native Hawaiians in our school communities is critical to our students' readiness to learn and eventual success in formal education and beyond. Research shows that students and families who have access to appropriate health care and health education stand a better chance at succeeding in school and enable them to give back to their communities in powerful ways.

We strongly urge the Committee to vote in favor of HB1616.

Mahalo for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Megan McCorriston
Executive Director



HEALTHYPACIFIC.ORG
restoringjusticehi@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

HB1616 RELATING TO HEALTH PLANNING House Committee on Finance

February 26, 2014
11:15 A.M.
Capitol Room 308

Aloha mai kākou,

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB1616**, which allows state agencies to plan and invest in programs that adopt a comprehensive, modern, cost- and life-saving approach to improving public health outcomes in both the short and long terms.

Addressing social determinants of health will save both money and lives in promoting the health and well-being of all our communities. Planning around the social determinants of health is a common-sense policy approach that recognizes how social circumstances can affect our ability to ensure our own health and well-being. Cultural, linguistic, economic and social barriers, among others, can often prevent individuals from meaningfully accessing the resources needed to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle, or avoid unnecessary complications that can lead to the costly exacerbation of existing medical conditions. By allowing state agencies to finally address such barriers to a healthy life, this bill will save the state both money and lives while also improving the conditions of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Filipinos, as well as all those who may face similar barriers as these particularly health-vulnerable groups.

In contrast, cutting off Pacific Islanders and other immigrants from accessing critical public healthcare services that they have and continue to pay into – as has been attempted by the previous administration – has thus far proven to be a failure in both cost savings and in the moral integrity and social fabric of our island community. **Had the previous administration taken a social determinants of health approach to planning and investment five years ago, it is highly likely that the state would have already realized a substantial cost savings in terms of reactive and emergency room care,**

and avoided the unnecessary illnesses and deaths that have since occurred.

Therefore, HealthyPacific.Org respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1616, and make Hawai'i a healthier and happier place for all people who call these islands home.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Letter of Support for HB 1616
House District:39
2nd Congressional District Senate District: 18

February 24, 2014

HB 1616
Relating to Health Planning
House Committee on Finance

Aloha a welina mai nei e nā alaka'i:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write testimony to **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1616** relating to health planning.

Here in our own homeland, Native Hawaiians are among the hardest hit by social determinants of health, resulting in our state's first people ranking last in many wellness indicators. Other Pacific Islanders and Filipinos face similar challenges.

The best way to address Native Hawaiian health in particular and our state's challenges overall is through a dual commitment to Native Hawaiian health as well as the broader social determinants of health that affect us all.

Incorporating a holistic understanding of health and wellbeing into health planning is consistent with the Kānaka Maoli concept of maui ola, which considers the entirety of our well-being as contributing to the health of ourselves and the larger community.

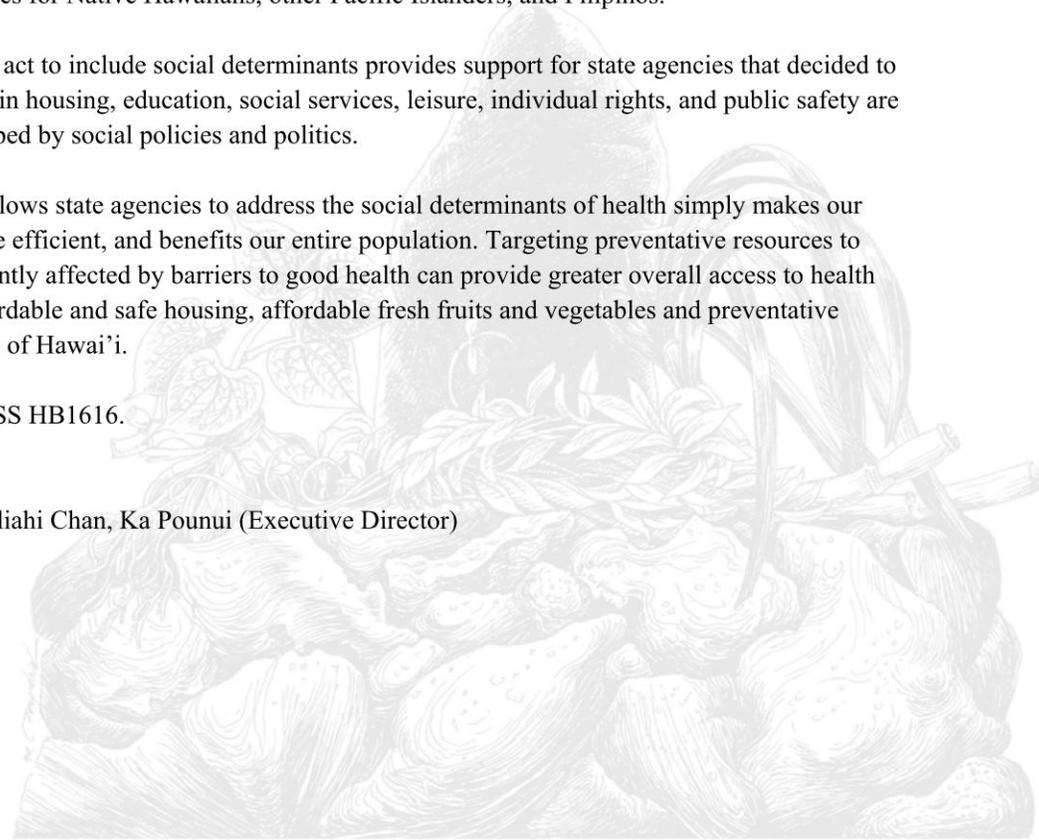
Though some segments of Hawai'i's population may rank high in national health outcomes, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos continue to have life expectancies drastically lower than others groups and much higher rates of chronic disease. This bill implements policy changes to allow state agencies discretion to implement best practices in health planning and support targeted services, interventions, and programs that are proven successes in improving health outcomes for Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

Updating the state planning act to include social determinants provides support for state agencies that decided to address unequal conditions in housing, education, social services, leisure, individual rights, and public safety are created, influenced and shaped by social policies and politics.

Implementing policy that allows state agencies to address the social determinants of health simply makes our approach to healthcare more efficient, and benefits our entire population. Targeting preventative resources to communities most significantly affected by barriers to good health can provide greater overall access to health facilities in rural areas, affordable and safe housing, affordable fresh fruits and vegetables and preventative healthcare for all the people of Hawai'i.

I urge the committee to PASS HB1616.

Respectfully,
Keola Kawai'ula'iliahi Chan, Ka Pounui (Executive Director)



finance1

From: Kamaka Jingao <kamakajingao@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 11:42 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Support of HB1616/SB2103

Aloha Kakou,

As we know Native Hawaiian health and the health of our communities in Hawaii is in need of something different. If we look at recent history we know that our health as the people of Hawaii is at the bottom in all categories regarding chronic disease.

Like the famous saying goes "If we keep doing what we always done, we goin get what we always gotten". Unfortunately for us, its bad health, sick communities, high overhead on health care, depressed people.

In order for this to change we must step back and look at ways in which our communities of the past thrived. We must look at preventative measures of health, we must look at the social economic factors regarding health. We must look at mental and emotional well being related to health.

Change is a must!

Mahalo nui,

Kamaka Jingao

Concerned people of Hawaii's healthy future

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1616
Relating to Health Planning

February 25, 2014

Honorable Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the committee, I am Dr. Joseph Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula. As a Behavioral Scientist and Chair of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, I am well aware of the importance of addressing the social determinants of health in eliminating the health inequities in Hawai‘i. Thus, I would like to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1616 that would update the Hawai‘i State Planning Act's objectives for health.

Eliminating health disparities is a national public health priority in the United States. Health disparities exist when a particular population has significantly higher rates of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, or mortality than the general population. In Hawai‘i, social and health inequities parallel each other, and certain ethnic groups in Hawai‘i bear a disproportionate burden of these inequities. Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos are more likely to be undereducated, to be working in low paying jobs, to be incarcerated, and to be living in poorer conditions than other ethnic groups. They are also the highest-ranking ethnic groups in terms of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and certain cancers. Their risk factors for chronic diseases such as obesity, hypertension, and tobacco use, are also high compared to the general population. People from these groups are more likely to develop diabetes and cardiovascular disease at younger ages. Depression, anxiety and substance abuse are also higher among these groups. Consequently, these Hawai‘i peoples live an average of a decade less than people of other ethnic groups in Hawai‘i. The CDC states that “health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to attain his or her full health potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.”

House Bill 1616 is one step towards modernizing the way we address health disparities, by providing support for state agencies that seek to include social determinants of health in their policy planning, which ultimately may lead to effective use of resources and better health outcomes for all, while ensuring communities hardest hit and most significantly affected by barriers to good health are not left behind.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support of HB 1616.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula, Ph.D.
Chair and Associate Professor
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 9:49 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: rbkarasuda@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM

HB1616

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RaeDeen Karasuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strong support.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM

HB1616

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: As indicated in the bill, social determinants of health is the single most important factor in individual and population health outcomes. While medical care can prolong survival and improve prognosis after some serious diseases, more important for the health of the population are the social and economic conditions that make people ill and in need of medical care in the first place. An assessment made by the John A. Burns School of Medicine indicated that Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos, as a collective, continue to have disparate health outcomes compared to the rest of the state. Inclusion of a commitment to social determinants of health as a priority in the Hawai State Planning Act acknowledges this disparity and reflects positively on the legislature for recognizing this situation and attempting to do something about it.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: wctanaka@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM

HB1616

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: Please pass this measure to modernize our health planning, and save both money and lives through the smart and effective commitment of resources. Mahalo!

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Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 10:22 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: randyc.09@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM*

HB1616

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Compton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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:: Leanne Kealoha Fox ::

2nd Congressional District

House District: 39
Senate District: 18

February 24, 2014

HB 1616

Relating to Health Planning

House Committee on Finance

Aloha a welina mai nei e nā alaka'i:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write testimony to **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1616 relating to health planning.

Here in our own homeland, Native Hawaiians are among the hardest hit by social determinants of health, resulting in our state's first people ranking last in many wellness indicators. Other Pacific Islanders and Filipinos face similar challenges.

The best way to address Native Hawaiian health in particular and our state's challenges overall is through a dual commitment to Native Hawaiian health as well as the broader social determinants of health that affect us all.

Incorporating a holistic understanding of health and wellbeing into health planning is consistent with the Kānaka Maoli concept of maui ola, which considers the entirety of our well-being as contributing to the health of ourselves and the larger community.

Though some segments of Hawai'i's population may rank high in national health outcomes, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos continue to have life expectancies drastically lower than others groups and much higher rates of chronic disease. This bill implements policy changes to allow state agencies discretion to implement best practices in health planning and support targeted services, interventions, and programs that are proven successes in improving health outcomes for Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

Updating the state planning act to include social determinants provides support for state agencies that decided to address unequal conditions in housing, education, social services, leisure, individual rights, and public safety are created, influenced and shaped by social policies and politics.

Implementing policy that allows state agencies to address the social determinants of health simply makes our approach to healthcare more efficient, and benefits our entire population. Targeting preventative resources to communities most significantly affected by barriers to good health can provide greater overall access to health facilities in rural areas, affordable and safe housing, affordable fresh fruits and vegetables and preventative healthcare for all the people of Hawai'i.

I urge the committee to **PASS** HB1616.

Respectfully, me ka `oia`i`o.

Letter of Support for HB 1616

February 24, 2014

To: House Committee on Finance

From: Dr. Noreen Mokuau
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, MBT School of Social Work

Re: SUPPORT of HB 1616, relating to health planning

Chairperson Luke, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Dr. Noreen Mokuau, I am the Dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I am writing today in support of HB 1616.

The bill amends Section 226-20 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, by updating the Hawai'i State Planning Act's objectives for health to include a commitment to eliminating health disparities by explicitly addressing social determinants of health in order to reflect the latest medical findings relating to the health needs of Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

The concept that socioeconomic factors and their distribution among the population are the primary determinants of individual and group differences in health status originated many decades ago, but has been brought to the forefront by increased research in the area over the past ten years and increased focus in professional literature in the past five years. There is now overwhelming evidence that social determinants, including social, economic, and cultural factors outside of medicine, have more influence on the level of health of specific populations than the actual medical care provided.

Guided by professional values that emphasize economic and social justice, social workers are actively collaborating with other health professions to develop and apply appropriate interventions such as income redistribution and housing reform. We are especially concerned about the plight of more vulnerable populations like Filipinos, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

I am therefore strongly urging your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments.

finance8-Danyl

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 3:57 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mbullard@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM*

HB1616

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Bulalrd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Richard N Salvador
3419 East Manoa Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

February 26, 2014

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

House Bill 1616 – Relating to Health Planning

Adds to the Hawaii State Planning Act's objectives and policies for health the identification of social determinants of health to reduce health disparities among Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

DATE: Wednesday, February 26, 2014

TIME: 11:15am

PLACE: Conference Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI

Dear Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony in **strong support of HB1616** which seeks to add new language to Hawaii State Planning Act's objectives and policies for health by identifying social determinants of health as important factors to address in order to reduce health disparities among Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

In its report last year (May 2013), the World Health Organization (WHO) put its stamp of approval on what its agencies have done in the past few years around the world in tackling what are called "social determinants of health" as priority areas in the improvement of health outcomes for poor communities. On its own website, WHO describes social determinants of health as "the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age" adding that "these circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels."

These observations ring true at so many levels. They make sense at the gut level where we intuitively feel and immediately connect the fact of ours and everyone's access to wealth as the defining factor in whether or not people actually have access to essential health care resources that extend and ensure the quality of their lives. Moreover, countless reports corroborating this link between means and ends fill official and unofficial reports from people who advocate on behalf of poor communities. This is why this Senate bill begins by recognizing "*social determinants of health as the single most important factor in individual and population health outcomes, [even] more so than genetic disposition or medical care.*"

You are wise to consider wording the language of this bill as you have. What better, more *Akamai* way it is to suggest improving existing State of Hawaii laws on planning that begin to ensure better outcomes of public policies, such as better health outcomes for minority populations. It makes sense. The bill states that “the legislature...finds that the Hawai‘i State Planning Act does not explicitly recognize social determinants of health as an important component of health planning.”

Finding existing laws to be so narrowly conceptualized, we must admit as much and make all necessary changes and not continue to ignore what we know about how poverty is so intimately tied to health outcomes and quality of life measures. We must connect the process of government planning to the many ways in which social determinants of health affect health outcomes. We must become more attuned to the nuances in which social determinants of health unduly influence health outcomes of peoples and populations and make use of them in planning for better health outcomes. As it is, this bill is brilliantly written and timely.

Inspired by work seeking to refocus and re-train our attention on creating just public policies, I come before this House Committee and sincerely ask the honorable Chairs and Committee Members to hasten the passage of this bill in your House and in the Senate and facilitate its move to the Governor for signature.

Thank you Representatives for giving me an opportunity to provide testimony. Mahalo for your hard work.

Sincerely,

Richard N Salvador
Member - COFA Community Advocacy Network of Hawaii



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 8:44 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: drodrigues2001@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM

HB1616

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I write in strong support for HB1616. We need the best tools to determine health policy for our state. Utilizing social determinants of health will modernize our planning process for creating better outcomes for communities which have the worst health in our state, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Filipinos. Updating the State Planning Act will help public health and community organizations create best practices that will benefit our communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: FINTestimony
Cc: aikoy@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM

HB1616

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 11:15AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aiko Yamashiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to speak in SUPPORT of HB 1616, Relating to Health Planning. I know you have received a good deal of testimony discussing the many reasons to support this forward-thinking bill. Based on my experiences as a student and teacher at UH Manoa, I have seen how empowering it can be for young people to think about their lives and communities in terms of "health." They quickly learn what "health disparity" and "social determinants of health" mean because they see these forces so clearly in their lives and their families. And they immediately see the value of using these critical terms and lenses--these ways of framing our current world lead to real, long-term solutions, and can help build grounded change. I am excited at the possibility of the legislature leading this growing movement by supporting this forward-thinking bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to share these words.

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