



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Monday, March 29, 2021  
3:10 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
**SCR184/SR149**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO PRODUCE AN INTEGRATED  
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE STATE OF HAWAII IN  
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers the following comments for SCR184/SR149, that requests the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to convene a working group to produce an integrated strategic plan for regional engagement by the State of Hawaii in the Pacific Islands region.

In order to comply with this resolution, funding in the amount of \$50,000 is necessary to obtain the assistance of a private sector entity to assist DBEDT to plan, organize and guide the working group to achieve a strategic plan.

DBEDT does not have the necessary resources, financially or professionally to undertake such an endeavor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism**

Date: Monday, March 29, 2021

Time: 3:10 p.m.

Place: Via Videoconference

**RE: SCR 184 / SR 149, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO PRODUCE AN INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE STATE OF HAWAII IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.**

**Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee,**

The organizations and individuals listed below **SUPPORT SCR 184 / SR 149**, requesting the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to convene a working group to produce an integrated strategic plan for regional engagement by the State of Hawaii in the Pacific Islands region.

We support SCR 184 and SR149 because the resolutions aspire to strengthen peace and stability in the Pacific Islands region in the following ways:

- It underscores the value of building and maintaining regional multilateral frameworks;
- It acknowledges the importance of regional discussions on shared challenges such as migration, climate change, and economic development;
- It aims to better inform how resources are channeled through the region; and
- It strives to produce an integrated strategic plan that reaffirms Hawaii's role as an epicenter for regional engagement in the region.

Instability in the Pacific Islands region could have serious implications for the State of Hawaii. A strategic plan for regional engagement could reap dividends in peace and stability for years to come. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you **PASS SCR 184 / SR 149**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this resolution.

(Please see list of supporters on the following page)

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization/Affiliation</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
1	Wilfred Alik, M.D	Hawaii-Marshallese Covid19 Task Force	<a href="mailto:wilfalik@gmail.com">wilfalik@gmail.com</a>	96720
2	Kelly Bokin	Marshallese Community Organization of Hawaii	<a href="mailto:kellybokin128@gmail.com">kellybokin128@gmail.com</a>	96701
3	Keola Diaz		<a href="mailto:keoladiaz@gmail.com">keoladiaz@gmail.com</a>	96813
4	Janer Emmius	Hawaii Marshallese Covid-19 Taskforce	<a href="mailto:emmiusjaner@gmail.com">emmiusjaner@gmail.com</a>	96732
5	Consul General Isabela Silk	Republic of the Marshall Islands Consulate - Honolulu	<a href="mailto:info@rmiconsulatehi.com">info@rmiconsulatehi.com</a>	96813
6	Tamera Heine	Republic of the Marshall Islands Consulate - Honolulu	<a href="mailto:outreach@rmiconsulatehi.com">outreach@rmiconsulatehi.com</a>	96813
7	Kathy S. Martin		<a href="mailto:ksmartin6@gmail.com">ksmartin6@gmail.com</a>	96929
8	Della Nakamoto		<a href="mailto:dwase@yahoo.com">dwase@yahoo.com</a>	96753
9	Barbara Tom	Nations of Micronesia; Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center	<a href="mailto:nationsofmicronesia@gmail.com">nationsofmicronesia@gmail.com</a>	96701
10	Keoni Williams	Hawai'i COFA Advocacy Hui	<a href="mailto:williamskeoni@gmail.com">williamskeoni@gmail.com</a>	96822

**SCR-184**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 4:38:37 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/29/2021 3:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

THIS is what we should be doing. Collaborating and working with people in the Pacific who have similar goals, traditions and issues. More of this.. less of the US continent.



**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

**LATE**

**Papa Ola Lokahi**

894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

#### **Papa Ola Lokahi**

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

#### **Board of Directors Member Organizations**

*Hoola Lahui Hawaii*

*Hui No Ke Ola Pono*

*Hui Malama Ola Na O'iwi*

*ALU LIKE*

*Ke Ola Mamo*

*E Ola Mau*

*University of Hawaii*

*Hawaii State Department of Health*

*Na Puuwai*

*Office of Hawaiian Affairs*

#### **Executive Director**

*Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD*

### **SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Sen. Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice-Chair

#### **IN OPPOSITION**

### **SR149 / SCR 184 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO PRODUCE AN INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE STATE OF HAWAII IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.**

**Monday, March 29, 2021, 3:10 PM, CR 224 & Videoconference**

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board established in 1988 through the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Act (Title 42 USC 122), **OPPOSES** SR 149 / SCR 184, which convenes a task force that is resolved to “produce an integrated strategic plan that is designed to achieve the long-term objective of reaffirming Hawaii as the political, economic, environmental, sociological, and technological epicenter for regional engagement in the Pacific Islands region.”

As you are aware, Papa Ola Lōkahi is firmly committed to the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and their families in Hawai'i and across the continental United States. While there are many issues within this resolution that intersect with our purpose, this measure extends into jurisdictions and topic areas – such as economic development and migration – that are outside the focus of Papa Ola Lōkahi.

We appreciate your confidence in Papa Ola Lōkahi, and would be happy to recommend other agencies and non-governmental organizations that are appropriately well-suited to the work of the proposed planning group.

Papa Ola Lōkahi urges the legislature to meet the needs of the public that best serve the immediate impacts from the current pandemic. We encourage prioritizing needs that address social determinants of health (such as stable employment, ability to afford mortgage or rent payments, educational resources from preschool to university, food access and more) and immediate clinical needs (such as COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and most recently vaccination distribution). We are also concerned with health equity action to ensure that those facing the highest risk are able to receive appropriate resources in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.