

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ADOPTION OF A STATE POLICY ASSURING THAT SAVINGS
REALIZED BY THE STATE THROUGH THE EXTENSION OF FEDERAL
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE PAYMENTS OF ONE HUNDRED
PERCENT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IS USED TO
ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES EXPERIENCED BY HAWAIIAN
COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, PAPA OLA LŌKAHI is a Hawaii nonprofit corporation,
2 501(c)(3) public charity, and consortium of public agencies and
3 private nonprofit organizations concerned with improving Native
4 Hawaiian cultural, physical, mental, and spiritual health and
5 well-being, including by entering into agreements or memoranda
6 of understanding with relevant organizations that are capable of
7 providing resources or services to the Native Hawaiian health
8 care systems that serve the unique health needs of Hawaiian
9 communities; and

10
11 WHEREAS, AHARO HAWAII (AHARO) is a Hawaii nonprofit
12 corporation, 501(c)(3) public charity, and consortium of Hawaii
13 nonprofit corporations each of which is a 501(c)(3) public
14 charity and federally qualified community health center that has
15 demonstrated records of contributing to the health and well-
16 being of Native Hawaiians and providing a wide range of
17 culturally-sensitive, holistic, and primary care health services
18 to predominately rural, multi-generational Native Hawaiian
19 communities in medically underserved areas within the State of
20 Hawaii; and

21
22 WHEREAS, AHARO is currently comprised of five federally
23 qualified health center organizations: Bay Clinic, Inc., Hamakua
24 Health Center, Inc., Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc. (dba
25 Molokai Community Health Center), Waianae District Comprehensive
26 Health and Hospital Board, Inc. (dba Waianae Coast Comprehensive
27 Health Center), and Waimanalo Health Center; and

28
29 WHEREAS, AHARO member organizations integrate traditional
30 native Hawaiian healing practices into their primary care
31 services and an AHARO member organization has established a
32 Kupuna Council of traditional Hawaiian healers recognized by



1 PAPA OLA LŌKAHI which distinguishes practitioners of Hawaiian
2 healing traditions from medical clinicians in Hawaii and
3 provides for the protection and preservation of such healing
4 practices as assured by the Hawaii State Constitution; and
5

6 WHEREAS, under section 9815 of the American Rescue Plan Act
7 of 2021 ("ARPA"), the federal government will pay one hundred
8 percent of the cost of Medicaid services provided at Native
9 Hawaiian Health Centers for sixteen fiscal year quarters (which
10 may be extended); and
11

12 WHEREAS, PAPA OLA LŌKAHI and AHARO have agreed that AHARO
13 member health centers will serve as additional "Native Hawaiian
14 Health Centers" and are recognized as part of the federal effort
15 to address health disparities experienced by Native Hawaiians;
16 and
17

18 WHEREAS, the current limited QUEST dental program does not
19 address the needs in multi-generational Hawaiian communities
20 where extensive dental work is needed; and
21

22 WHEREAS, full adult dental services are a required service
23 of a federally qualified health center and are typically
24 supported through state match; and
25

26 WHEREAS, state savings, realized from the Native Hawaiian
27 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage recalculation, should be
28 used to address continuing health disparities realized by Native
29 Hawaiians which include dental disease and the early onset of
30 chronic diseases; and
31

32 WHEREAS, these supplemental healthcare services should be
33 provided by healthcare providers authorized by PAPA OLA LŌKAHI;
34 now, therefore,
35

36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
38 that all executive departments are urged to review their
39 policies and prioritize the goal of the adoption of a state
40 policy assuring that savings realized by the State through the
41 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage adjustment for Native



S.R. NO. 141

1 Hawaiians is used to address health disparities experienced by
2 Hawaiian communities; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
6 congressional delegation; Governor; Director of Health; Director
7 of Human Services; Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the
8 Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Executive Director of PAPA OLA
9 LŌKAHI; President of AHARO HAWAII; Chief Executive Office of the
10 Bay Clinic, Inc.; Chief Executive Officer of the Hamakua Health
11 Center, Inc.; Chief Executive Officer of the Molokai Community
12 Health Center; Chairperson of the Waianae District Comprehensive
13 Health and Hospital Board, Inc., and Chief Executive Officer of
14 the Waimanalo Health Center.
15
16
17

OFFERED BY:  _____

