



### **HCR32/HR21**

**REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO IDENTIFY THE SCOPE OF  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
ADDRESSING NATIVE HAWAIIAN DISPARITIES**  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 11, 2024

1:01 p.m.

Conference Room 224

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HCR32/HR21**, which urges the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to identify the scope of Native Hawaiian cultural appropriateness to address Native Hawaiian disparities. **This resolution recognizes and addresses the disparities Hawaiians face in all aspects of life, such as health, housing, education, economics, and identity, here in our homeland.**

The Native Hawaiian community has faced historical injustices and ongoing structural racism that have resulted in significant socio-political-economic challenges. Public Law 103-150, the Apology Resolution, recognizes these challenges and underscores the State's responsibility to continuously enhance the conditions for Native Hawaiians.

OHA's 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, encompasses four directions: educational pathways, health outcomes, quality housing, and economic stability. These directions are grounded in three foundations: ‘ohana (family), mo‘omeheu (culture), and ‘āina. Our strategic plan acknowledges that achieving economic stability, educational success, health, and well-being for Native Hawaiians necessitates defining cultural appropriateness through a Native Hawaiian ‘ano.

The inherent capacity of Native Hawaiians to formulate solutions based on our rich cultural heritage and traditional knowledge is evident. Integrating Native Hawaiian cultural appropriateness into policy processes is not only respectful but also essential for effective decision-making and implementation that addresses the distinctive needs and aspirations of the community. Further, it is often a matter of law with many statutes, rules and policies identifying the need for cultural relevance or appropriateness as a right.



## HCR32/HR21

# REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO IDENTIFY THE SCOPE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING NATIVE HAWAIIAN DISPARITIES House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is the principal public agency responsible for seeking the betterment of conditions for Native Hawaiians and is well-positioned to spearhead this effort. OHA is eager to collaborate with relevant stakeholders and Native Hawaiian communities to ensure that the findings and recommendations accurately reflect the diverse needs and perspectives within the community. We also look forward to bringing together decision-makers in state government with our community to ensure discussions will lead to actionable change. By identifying the scope of Native Hawaiian cultural appropriateness, particularly in priority areas such as economic development, education, health, and housing, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs—along with community and government partners—can pave the way for more comprehensive and effective policies not only for our community but for every community in Hawai‘i.

OHA believes these efforts are especially valuable when done in partnership with the State Legislature. We recognize that this body often explicitly charges state executive branch departments with delivering programs and services that are culturally appropriate or relevant. OHA would like to work with the Legislature to put more weight and clarity behind what this language means in statute, rule or policy.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS HCR32/HR21**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 11, 2024

The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: HCR32 REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO IDENTIFY THE SCOPE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING NATIVE HAWAIIAN DISPARITIES**

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities is in **SUPPORT OF HCR32**, which requests the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to identify the scope of Native Hawaiian cultural appropriateness for addressing Native Hawaiian disparities.

This resolution holds significant promise for our population of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD), by addressing crucial gaps in Native Hawaiian awareness, healthcare access, and support services. Existing health disparities prevalent in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations highlight the potential for a disparity in healthcare provisions for Native Hawaiians with IDD, given the overarching health inequities faced by this demographic<sup>1</sup>.

While it has been observed that there are fewer individuals with DD within the Native Hawaiian population, a study suggests that this discrepancy may stem from a lack of adequate screening and education on the symptoms of DD among Native Hawaiian populations.<sup>2</sup> The article suggests that cultural beliefs, alongside potentially lower awareness of DD symptoms compared to their White counterparts, may contribute to this underrepresentation. Thus, it becomes imperative to address these

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<sup>1</sup>For health disparities in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations: "Health Disparities in Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Populations." National Library of Medicine, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK595255/>.

<sup>2</sup> Nalin Payakachat, Christopher R. Long, Pearl A. McElfish, Marie-Rachelle Narcisse, Holly C. Felix, Zoran Bursac, Teresa J. Hudson; Prevalence, Health and Resource Utilization, and Unmet Healthcare Needs of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Children With Developmental Disabilities. *Am J Intellect Dev Disabil* 1 May 2019; 124 (3): 234–247. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1352/1944-7558-124.3.234>

gaps in awareness and healthcare access through culturally appropriate resources and programs, as advocated by HCR32.

HCR32 represents a crucial step towards ensuring equitable access to support and services tailored to the needs of Native Hawaiian communities with DD.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HCR32**.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus

Executive Administrator

**HCR-32**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 4:22:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/11/2024 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Testifying for Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Huh? Say what? 'A'ole hiki maopopo ia'u ka mana'o o keia 'olelo ho'oholo HCR32/HR21. Such bafflegab should have been scheduled for hearing on April 1, in honor of the cultural significance of that date.

**HCR-32**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 3:39:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/11/2024 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

YES, yes, yes to; REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO IDENTIFY THE SCOPE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING NATIVE HAWAIIAN DISPARITIES

**HCR-32**

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 9:49:34 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/11/2024 1:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support