

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

Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR166 / SR140

REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES,
AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

SENATOR MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing: 03/28/2024
Conference Room 224
1:00 pm

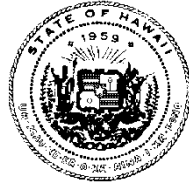
- 1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health supports SCR166 / SR140.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) provides the following
- 3 testimony on behalf of the Department of Health.

4 The Department supports SCR166 / SR140 for many reasons, among them the higher
5 burden of disability for Native Hawaiian families, and the need for service systems to engage
6 with families and individuals so services can be provided that reflect their needs and cultural
7 realities. This is especially important for the ongoing relationships with families and individuals,
8 including in assessment and service planning. There is a strong need for culturally-based
9 practices and competencies in State agencies to ensure services feel safe, honor the Native
10 Hawaiian culture, and respect the role of trusted individuals and family members in service
11 planning and delivery. Because of the disparities that exist for many Native Hawaiians in
12 accessing healthcare and services, culturally-appropriate services are an important approach
13 for system and provider level interventions to reduce disparities.

14 Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

1 **Offered Amendments:** None

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 27, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [SCR 166/SR 140](#): REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Hearing: March 28, 2024, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this resolution.

PURPOSE: This resolution reaffirms the State's commitment to providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD).

DHS supports the resolution that would affirm that providing culturally relevant care for individuals and families experiencing intellectual or developmental disabilities is a key component to improved outcomes for individuals and families. The provision of culturally appropriate services is an important approach for system and provider-level interventions to

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“honor the intrinsic individuality of every person with an intellectual and developmental disability,” as stated in this resolution. DHS remains committed to supporting practices that honor and build on “Native Hawaiian family-based and communal structures established systems of effective care for individuals of all ages, including the most vulnerable members of society.”

By recognizing cultural strengths and approaches, this resolution articulates a positive step to address health disparities by respecting individuals' dignity and improving access to care for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution.



To: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2024, 1:00 PM, Conference Room 224

RE: **SCR166/SR140 – Reaffirming the State's Commitment to Providing Culturally Appropriate Resources, Services, and Programs for Native Hawaiian Individuals and Families Experiencing Intellectual Developmental Disabilities.**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SCR166 and SR140**. These measures urge the Governor and the Legislature to commit to providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 84,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 40 percent of our members are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare is committed to improving access to high-quality care for all people regardless of disability status or ethnic and cultural background. We believe it is important to embrace the rich diversity and cultures of Hawai'i's people as resources for wellness. Culturally appropriate approaches to health are foundational to our *Ke Aloha Mau* program, supporting whole-person care through traditional, cultural, and spiritual healing methods. At no cost to our members, the program makes available Native Hawaiian healing services – (1) lomilomi: physiotherapy and massage, (2) 'ai pono: healthy food and meals, (3) hula: physical movement and dance, and (4) ho'oponopono: balancing of relationships.



The program is provided in collaboration with community health centers, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, and cultural practitioners.

As part of our commitment to ensuring access to care, we support removing barriers to viable treatment modalities, especially for populations with significant health disparities and less access to or trust in Western healthcare. We appreciate these measures and applaud the Legislature's leadership and commitment to improving the quality of life for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as to ensuring the provision of culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian communities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SCR166 and SR140.**

SR-140

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 10:02:38 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shae-Lynne Igarta-De Vera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Shae-Lynne Igarta-De Vera. I'm a Master of Social Work (MSW) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa specializing in behavioral mental health, and I will be graduating this May. I am in support of SR140. As a Native Hawaiian, I believe that there should be culturally appropriate services and resources for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities. In class, I learned that clients are more willing to see someone with the same beliefs/culture. Ensuring each client is comfortable with the services and resources is essential. This bill emphasizes the importance of tailored support services that honor each person's unique strengths and challenges. It also contributes to efforts to improve the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. It underscores the importance of providing necessary support and relief to ensure the well-being and inclusion of all members of society. Lastly, this bill is a step toward acknowledging past wrongs and advocating for restorative justice within affected communities.

SR-140

Submitted on: 3/22/2024 6:32:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Estigoy-Kahoonei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Serving the Native Hawaiian community in all aspects should always be a priority and funding needs to be appropriated to help all programs whose goal is to support them