



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
March 21, 2024

The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Marten and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HCR33/HR22 URGING THE GOVERNOR AND PERTINENT STATE AGENCIES TO COMMIT TO PROVIDE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities stands in **support of HCR33/HR22**, which urges the Governor and pertinent state agencies to commit to providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Preliminary findings indicate that Native Hawaiians, along with Filipinos, may be contending with more severe levels of disability, emphasizing the urgent necessity for targeted support systems within these communities.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the 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>2</sup>

Moreover, 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

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<sup>1</sup> Preliminary findings from: Wong, Kamana'opono M., et al. "Prevalence, Health and Resource Utilization, and Unmet Healthcare Needs of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Children With Developmental Disabilities." *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2019, pp. 241-249, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332794551\\_Prevalence\\_Health\\_and\\_Resource\\_Utilization\\_and\\_Unmet\\_Healthcare\\_Needs\\_of\\_Native\\_Hawaiian\\_and\\_Pacific\\_Islander\\_Children\\_With\\_Developmental\\_Disabilities](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332794551_Prevalence_Health_and_Resource_Utilization_and_Unmet_Healthcare_Needs_of_Native_Hawaiian_and_Pacific_Islander_Children_With_Developmental_Disabilities).

<sup>2</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/>.

adequate screening and education on the symptoms of DD among Native Hawaiian populations. The authors posit that cultural beliefs, alongside potentially lower awareness of DD symptoms compared to their White counterparts, may contribute to this underrepresentation.<sup>3</sup> Thus, it becomes imperative to address these gaps in awareness and healthcare access through culturally appropriate resources and programs, as advocated by HCR33.

HCR33 represents a crucial step towards ensuring equitable access to support and services tailored to the unique cultural needs of Native Hawaiian communities with IDD. By prioritizing culturally appropriate resources and programs, we can enhance the well-being and inclusion of Native Hawaiian individuals and families with IDD, promoting stronger connections to their cultural heritage and promoting holistic approaches to care.

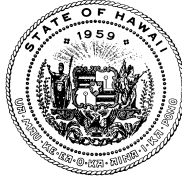
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HCR33/HR22**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus,  
Executive Administrator

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<sup>3</sup> Underrepresentation of individuals with DD within the Native Hawaiian population due to lack of screening and education: Wong, Kamana'opono M., et al. "Prevalence, Health and Resource Utilization, and Unmet Healthcare Needs of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Children With Developmental Disabilities." *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2019, pp. 241-249, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332794551\\_Prevalence\\_Health\\_and\\_Resource\\_Utilization\\_and\\_Unmet\\_Healthcare\\_Needs\\_of\\_Native\\_Hawaiian\\_and\\_Pacific\\_Islander\\_Children\\_With\\_Developmental\\_Disabilities](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332794551_Prevalence_Health_and_Resource_Utilization_and_Unmet_Healthcare_Needs_of_Native_Hawaiian_and_Pacific_Islander_Children_With_Developmental_Disabilities).



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 33 / HR22**  
URGING THE GOVERNOR AND PERTINENT STATE AGENCIES TO COMMIT TO PROVIDE  
CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN  
INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES.

REPRESENTATIVE LISA MARTEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**Hearing:** 03/21/2024  
Conference Room 329  
9:30 am

- 1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health supports HCR33 / HR22.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) provides the following
- 3 testimony on behalf of the Department of Health.
- 4       The Department supports HCR 33/HR 22 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



HCR33 / HR22  
Thursday, March 21, 2024 - 9:30am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

**LATE**

Aloha nō e Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services:

‘A poākea (literally meaning “Infinite Reach”) Native Hawaiian Innovation Institute [ANHII] is a Native Hawaiian-led 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded with the purpose of providing strategic and tactical solutions to issues causing & contributing to the negative consequences of disproportionality & disparity as they are suffered by socially disadvantaged & underserved communities that include, but are not limited to: Native Hawaiians and individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (ID/D) & their families. Our work is heavily focused on addressing gap areas in resources, services, and programs impacting individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities & their families.

In our personal and professional experience and expertise in working with Native Hawaiians and individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities & their families, we have determined that there is a disconnect between culture and the way diagnosis, services, and care are delivered. ‘Apoākea firmly believes that culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs would have a profound impact on their quality of life.

It is critical that the entire State of Hawai'i government be urged to make this commitment, especially the Legislative body who is charged with law and policy making which will impact the quality of life for individuals living with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families.

‘Apoākea offers this testimony in **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** to page 3 lines 8-14. In the first "Be it resolved," please amend the statement to include the Legislature alongside the Governor and state agencies who are urged to commit to providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families.

‘A poākea appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure, and we urge this body to accept and apply the amendments as stated above.

Me ka mahalo piha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandi-Lynn Makalani Kupau Hyden".

Brandi-Lynn Makalani Kupau Hyden  
Executive Director