



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

April 2, 2024

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 325

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.



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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.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS HCR32/HR1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

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Submitted on: 3/28/2024 6:07:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/2/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	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.

HR-21

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 3:28:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/2/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support