



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

House Committee on Human Services

March 21, 2024

09:30 a.m.

Conference Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** 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.

We must acknowledge the unique challenges faced by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities within our community. These conditions are lifelong and require specialized support that is tailored to each individual's specific needs. A one-size-fits-all approach fails to recognize the inherent diversity within our community and hinders one's full integration into society.

I ka wā kahiko (In the time long before), Native Hawaiian family structures provided a framework for caring for individuals with disabilities, but these structures have been eroded by historical injustices. It is incumbent upon us to rectify these injustices and restore the support systems that sustained our community for generations. By supporting culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for people with IDD, the Legislature will take a large step forward in addressing these historical injustices.

This resolution is not merely a matter of policy, but rather a moral imperative deeply rooted in the values of equity, inclusion, and cultural preservation. As a community, we must take action to ensure that everyone feels valued and supported. Together, we can create a better future for all by providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs to affirm the dignity and worth of every Native Hawaiian individual with IDD.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR33. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.