



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 S.C.R. 24 / S.R. 21
SUPPORTING THE GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO JOIN THE WEST COAST HEALTH ALLIANCE TO
GUIDE PUBLIC HEALTH DECISIONS**

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

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

March 30, 2026, 1:02 pm, Room Number: 225

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None
- 2 **Department Position:** The Department **SUPPORTS** and appreciates this resolution.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Disease Outbreak Control Division provides the following
- 4 testimony on behalf of the Department.
- 5 Hawaii joined California, Oregon, and Washington to form the West Coast Health Alliance
- 6 (WCHA) to uphold integrity of effective public health strategies to protect the health of our
- 7 communities. Through this partnership, the WCHA will collaborate on the review of the best
- 8 available science and evidence to make unified recommendations that support safety, efficacy,
- 9 transparency, access, and trust. WCHA will also focus on the coordination of aligned messaging.
- 10 WCHA will:

- 1 • Work together to ensure the public has access to credible information
- 2 • Coordinate to reduce confusion and increase trust in public health
- 3 • Provide evidence-based position statements, policy recommendations and guidance
- 4 • Seek alignment with respected national professional organizations
- 5 • Share tools and best practices

6 To protect the health of our communities, the WCHA will work to ensure that our public health
7 strategies are based on the best available science. We will independently pursue strategies
8 shaped by our unique laws, geographies, histories, and peoples, using these shared principles
9 as the foundations of our Alliance:

10 **1. Health as a Right**

11 We affirm that all members of our communities should have access to quality health
12 care and information.

13 **2. Science and Integrity**

14 We are committed to leading with science and to grounding our policies and
15 recommendations in rigorous research, clinical expertise, and decades of proven public
16 health practice. We commit to reevaluating our recommendations as new data becomes
17 available.

1 **3. Transparency and Trust**

2 Our communities deserve clear, transparent communication about health, rooted in
3 science. We will safeguard public trust through honesty, clarity, and accountability.

4 **4. Public Health Responsibility**

5 We recognize the responsibility entrusted to us to protect and promote the health of
6 the public. We will serve in a manner worthy of that trust, prioritizing prevention and
7 evidence-based care to save lives.

8 **5. Equity at Our Core**

9 We are committed to giving everyone in our communities the opportunity to attain their
10 highest level of health, and to eliminating barriers to evidence-based care especially for
11 disproportionately impacted or marginalized communities.

12 **6. Tribal Sovereignty**

13 We affirm and respect Tribal sovereignty, recognizing Tribes' authority over their health
14 services. We also acknowledge health disparities impacting Indigenous peoples.

15 **7. Coverage and Access**

16 We advocate for full coverage by payors of preventive services.

17 Thank you for your support of science, public health, and our communities, and for the
18 opportunity to testify.



HIPHI Board

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Health

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: March 28, 2026

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs

Re: Support for SCR 24/SR 21, Supporting The Governor's Decision To Join The
West Coast Health Alliance To Guide Public Health Decisions

Hrg: March 30, 2026, 1:02 PM, Conference Room 225

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)¹ is in **support of SCR 24/SR 21**, which supports the Governor's decision to join the West Coast Health Alliance to guide public health decisions.

Regional public health collaboration is increasingly important as states respond to emerging health threats, workforce shortages, climate-related health impacts, and misinformation related to vaccines and public health policy. Interstate public health alliances allow states to share data, coordinate emergency preparedness and response, and develop consistent public health guidance to improve public health systems and enhance health outcomes.²

Interstate Planning

Hawai'i's participation in the West Coast Health Alliance (WHCA) comes at a time when many public health professionals and medical organizations have expressed concern that federal public health decision-making has, at times, moved away from established scientific consensus and evidence-based medical practice. Regional alliances such as the WHCA were formed in part to ensure that public health guidance remains rooted in scientific evidence and clinical expertise, and to allow participating states to coordinate science-based public health policy.³

Public health challenges do not stop at state borders. Infectious disease outbreaks, social health determinants, and supply chain disruptions affect multiple states simultaneously. Regional collaboration allows states to share

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

² [West Coast States Form Alliance to Provide Public Health Recommendations](#), Pearl Steinzor, American Journal of Managed Care, 2025.

³ [States Are Forming Public Health Alliances](#), Citizens Research Council of Michigan, 2025.



expertise and best practices, improving efficiency and strengthening interstate response capabilities. Research shows that public health partnerships and data-sharing collaborations improve population health outcomes and allow states to implement more effective public health strategies using collective analysis of real-time health and wellness trends.⁴

Coordinating Health Resources

Participation in a regional alliance is particularly beneficial for Hawai'i due to the state's geographic isolation and limited in-state research infrastructure compared to larger mainland states. Collaboration with West Coast states provides access to additional public health expertise, research capacity, policy development resources, and coordinated planning that strengthens Hawai'i's ability to respond to future emergencies and emerging health threats.⁵

Regional alliances also help provide consistent public health messaging across states, which is critical for maintaining public trust in vaccines and health guidance. Consistent communication improves compliance with public health recommendations and helps counter confusion resulting from misinformation, which has become an increasing public health challenge nationwide.

Conclusion

For these reasons, joining the West Coast Health Alliance will strengthen Hawai'i's public health infrastructure, support science-based decision-making, improve emergency preparedness, and advance collaboration with other states facing similar public health challenges.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge the legislature to adopt this resolution.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Coffield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kris Coffield
Policy and Advocacy Associate

⁴ [States Can Use Data-Driven Partnerships to Improve People's Health](#), Pew Charitable Trusts, 2024.

⁵ ["The power of partnerships: state public health department multisector collaborations,"](#) Tsai E., et al., Health Research Policy and Systems, 2022.

SR-21

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 4:54:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

100% OPPOSE SCR24 and SR21

I DO NOT support the Governor's decision to join the West Coast Health Alliance w/o first asking us, the constituents, if we wanted to join!

The collaboration & consensus of this Alliance on a recommended list of vaccines & their alleged safety, does Not mean the public will have more confidence in vaccines. Many are well aware of all the adverse reactions, serious injuries & deaths caused by Covid vaccines; & No longer blindly trust so-called "medical experts" that vaccines are "safe & effective"

If the American Academy of Pediatricians(AAP) is one of the "trusted" medical experts that this Alliance will use for guidance, Please Note that AAP is facing a RICO lawsuit for making fraudulent vaccine safety claims while receiving funding from Big Pharma(Pfizer, Moderna, Merck & Sanofi) and incentivizing pediatricians for high vaccine rates! The lawsuit details decades of malfeasance--harming numerous children & even 3 deaths for following AAP's recommendations. Last year, AAP called for an end to religious exemptions for children, and our Governor & Dept of Health tried to do the same!!

So, Trust is Not very high for our Governor regarding vaccines & health recommendations!!!

Respectfully ask you to Vote NO on SCR24 & SR21

Mahalo

SR-21

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 10:18:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I respectfully oppose SCR24 and SR21.

Vaccines are not the most effective health tool against illness. There are many safer, more natural remedies that don't have damaging side effects.

Mahalo for voting NO on SCR24 and SR 21

Linda

SR-21

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 8:37:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly appose SCR24.

I do not agree that Hawaii should align with the "west coast alliance" nor pass a bill into law with the ideology that promotes vaccines. This promotes a pro vaccine agenda that in my oppinion could lead to mandating vaccines. It also does not promote a healthy lifestyle wich leads to a healthy immune system that is God given, naturally.

I APPOSE SCR24!

March 29, 2026

To: Hawaii's Senate Health & Human Services and the Senate Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

From: Cheryl Toyofuku (mother, grandmother, retired registered nurse, health advocate)

Relating to: Opposition to SCR24 and SR21 supporting the Governor's Decision to join the West Coast Health Alliance to Guide Public Health Decisions

Hearing scheduled for: Monday, March 30, 2026 at 1:02pm, Rm 225

I strongly oppose Governor Green's decision to join the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) that connects Hawaii to a partnership with the 3 other Democratic states of California, Washington and Oregon. Governor Green's statement that public health decisions should be grounded in science and not politics appears inconsistent as he is collaborating with these other Western state partners.

The governors of California, Oregon and Washington formed WCHA in response to the recommendations to decrease the amount of vaccines on the Childhood Vaccine schedule recommended by the federal CDC. Along with DOH Director Dr. Kenneth Fink, Governor Green and the governors of these other 3 states remain aligned and committed to "vaccines are among the most effective public health tool, protecting against serious illness and reducing community transmission and strain on the State's health care system."

This commitment to the vaccine agenda as "trusted science and collective responsibility to public health outcomes" is very questionable. It is not unwarranted skepticism that many in Hawaii and other states now have extreme grave concerns over the lack of safety and effectiveness of vaccines. Comprehensive research studies, clinical data and numerous testimonies of vaccine adverse reactions and deaths have revealed enough scientific evidence, understandably weakening public confidence in vaccines. Here are just two of the many resources sharing the dangers and toxicity of vaccine ingredients and reporting the vaccine adverse reactions to the ever-increasing vaccine schedule, "recommendations" and/or "mandates":

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-2O7egoNeA_ktiFEKvTQtUumdO962s8fhhgRVM_xv6o/edit?tab=t.0

<https://learntherisk.org/vaccines/studies/>

Lastly, "clear, evidence-based guidance and policies by trusted medical and scientific experts" must be scrutinized to clarify who these experts are. Over the years, it appears that educated and informed health consents to recommendations or required procedures to vaccinations are often not provided by our current state's health care system, organizations and "experts". Parents, grandparents, trusted ohana and our own health care providers are the trusted experts we prefer to depend on. We have since followed other helpful preventive services that have genuinely helped the people of Hawaii with health options that are more natural and non-toxic to build our God-given immune systems to fight illness.

Please do NOT support the Governor's decision to join WCHA and say "NO" to this alliance to guide public health decisions. Oppose SCR24 and SR21. Mahalo.

SR-21

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 12:59:48 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reina Loughlin	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha chair, vice chair, and members of the committee.

I am in opposition of bill SCR24 and companion bill SR 21.

The governor's decision to join the West Coast health alliance is not fairly representing the will of the people of Hawaii. The concern is how it will impose on our medical freedom as it did during COVID-19, where public health decisions and mandates were made for us.

A grave concern is the recommendations of vaccinations, which studies have shown have harmful side effects.

Again, I oppose SCR24 and companion bill SR21.

mahalo.

Judith F. Clark
J48-218 Kamehameha Highway
808-499-9966
Judithforceclark@gmail.com
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

March 27, 2026

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

**Testimony in Support of SCR 24/SR 21 SUPPORTING THE GOVERNOR'S
DECISION TO JOIN THE WEST COAST HEALTH ALLIANCE TO GUIDE PUBLIC
HEALTH DECISIONS**

As a public health professional and community advocate, I strongly support SCR 24/SR 21 Supporting the Governor's Decision to Join the West Coast Health Alliance to Guide Public Health Decisions.

Public health policy should be based upon clear, evidence-based guidance and policies informed by trusted medical and scientific experts. The policies and guidance currently promoted by the federal administration do not meet this standard. The federal government is not a reliable, dependable, or accurate source of information about vaccines and other health issues and practices at this time.

To protect the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii, we must turn to other more credible sources. The West Coast Health Alliance is committed to promoting science-based, evidence-based practices and policies.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

SR-21

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 8:53:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs San Buenaventura and Wakai, and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr retired Navy Veteran, who took a solemn oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic, and that oath didn't expire when I retired. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE both SCR-24 & SR-21.

I am deeply concerned whenever decision-making that affects our freedoms and daily lives is pushed farther away from the people and their elected representatives. These resolutions tie Hawaii's public health policy to a mainland regional bloc—the West Coast Health Alliance—made up of states with very different cultures and priorities from our own. I understand the importance of unity and cooperation, but I also know that command and accountability must be clear. Here, responsibility becomes blurred between the Alliance, and our own state officials.

Both resolutions repeatedly place ultimate trust in “scientific consensus,” “trusted medical and scientific experts,” and “national medical organizations” as the guiding authority for policy. As a veteran, I respect expertise, but I also know from experience that experts can be wrong, that conditions on the ground matter, and that blind obedience can have serious consequences. Over the past few years, and 2021 specifically, I've watched public health decisions from afar lead to mandates, restrictions, and loss of livelihoods, often with little room for questions or conscience. These resolutions do not acknowledge any of those hard lessons, nor do they build in safeguards to protect civil liberties if the Alliance recommends heavy-handed measures in the future.

The language of these resolutions emphasizes “collective responsibility,” “public confidence in vaccines,” and “health directives,” but says nothing about individual rights, religious freedom, or informed consent—values that many veterans fought to preserve. There is no assurance that Hawai'i will defend those rights if Alliance guidance conflicts with local values or with the conscience of our citizens, including those who served. Instead, by declaring that Hawai'i will follow “the most current guidance and scientific consensus from national medical organizations,” the Legislature risks giving a blank check to distant institutions that are not accountable to Hawaii's people.

Finally, as a veteran, I know that symbolic statements can set the tone for future action. These resolutions may not have the force of law, but they express the Legislature's official position and

can be used later to justify mandates or restrictions based on Alliance recommendations. If Hawai'i is to engage in regional cooperation, it should be done through carefully crafted laws that include clear limits, transparency, and protections for constitutional freedoms—not through broad endorsements that place outside alliances and national organizations at the center of our public health decisions.

For these reasons, from my veteran's perspective, I respectfully urge you to defer indefinitely SR-21 and SCR-24. Hawai'i can respect science, support voluntary vaccination, and collaborate with other states while still keeping ultimate authority, accountability, and the protection of our freedoms here at home.

Mahalo,

Brett Kulbis
U.S. Navy Retired

SR-21

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 10:01:54 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bad bill!

SR-21

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 12:14:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/30/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Note that I strongly oppose this measure SR21 and SCR24. The idea of "GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO JOIN THE WEST COAST HEALTH ALLIANCE TO GUIDE PUBLIC HEALTH DECISIONS" which includes Oregon, Washington and California is frightening. I ask you to stop this measures from going any further.

Vaccines are and must remain a choice not a mandate! We do not need a repeat of Covid!

A very concerned Hawaii resident Rita Kama-Kimura