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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 163, SD1

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Adrian Kamali'i, and I submit this testimony in strong support of SCR 163, SD1.

Over the course of my career in strategic communications, government relations, and international engagement, including work connected to the United Nations and ongoing relationships across the Pacific, I have had the opportunity to engage with leaders, policymakers, and community stakeholders throughout Oceania. One thing is consistently clear: relationships in the Pacific are not built overnight, and they are not sustained passively. They require presence, participation, and genuine commitment.

SCR 163 reflects that understanding.

Hawai'i's participation in the Pacific Inter-Parliamentary Assembly is not ceremonial. It is a necessary investment in maintaining and strengthening the relationships that position Hawai'i as a trusted and relevant partner in the region.

From climate resilience and disaster response to food security and cultural preservation, the challenges facing Pacific Island communities are shared. The solutions, however, are best shaped through direct engagement with one another - not filtered through continental perspectives that often fail to reflect island realities.

Through my own experience working in and alongside Pacific networks, I have seen firsthand how quickly relationships can stall when engagement is inconsistent and how impactful it is when Hawai'i shows up, listens, and contributes in a meaningful way.

This resolution ensures that Hawai'i continues to do exactly that.



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It also reinforces Hawai'i's unique role as a bridge, genealogically, geographically, culturally, and politically - between the United States and the broader Pacific. That role is not guaranteed. It must be continually exercised and reaffirmed. And if for nothing else but to maintain our connectedness not just through an ocean, but the relatedness we have in navigation, shared genealogies, language, culture and practices.

SCR 163 is a step in that direction.

In a region where trust, continuity, and respect carry as much weight as policy itself, maintaining Hawai'i's presence in the Pacific Inter-Parliamentary Assembly is both strategic and necessary.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your strong support of SCR 163, SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.