



# ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

P.O. Box 1135 Honolulu, Hawaii 96807

TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT  
ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS  
IN SUPPORT OF

HCR 104, SUPPORTING H.R. 3680 AND S. 1732 TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
SERVICE ACT TO PROVIDE FOR HEALTH DATA REGARDING NATIVE  
HAWAIIANS AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair

Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 10, 2010, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

Aloha, Representative Carroll, Chair, Representative Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs urges passage of HCR 104 which would support H.R. 3680 and S. 1732 to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for health data regarding Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI).

Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI) are identified as one of six specific racial or ethnic categories in the United States Census. The others being African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, Caucasians, and Latinos/Hispanics. Native Hawaiians and the Pacific Jurisdictions have a special legal relationship with the United States, which requires careful consideration of consultation rights and expectations that are based upon formal US policy, special treaties with the United States, and/or international law. Further, this population is unique in that its peoples have homelands in the Pacific, yet many have moved to reside in the continental United States and today are living in every state of the United States. **NHOPI are often “invisible” in current federal data collection, analysis, and reporting, particularly those identifying health status. Thus, making it difficult to have a national strategy to deal with their unique health needs.**

These pieces of legislation would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to **consult** with community groups, designated organizations, and government representatives of NHOPI populations within six months of passage of the legislation to develop and **implement an ongoing and sustainable national strategy for identifying and evaluating the health status and health needs of NHOPI living on the continental United States, in Hawaii, and in the various Pacific Island Jurisdictions.** It would also require the National Center for Health Statistics to **conduct a preliminary health survey** as part of developing a national strategy which shall identify the major areas and regions in which NHOPI reside in the continental United States, in Hawaii, and in the Pacific Island Jurisdictions.

In 1997, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised federal data collection standards to recognize the significant demographic, historical, cultural, and ethnic differences that exist between NHOPIs and Asian Americans. These important distinctions were not simply cultural or historical, but also encompassed unique health and socio-economic challenges among the different populations. The standard required that Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) data be collected and reported separately from Asian American data by all federal agencies no later than January 1, 2003.

As of 2007, however, not all federal agencies were in full compliance with OMB Revised Directive 15. In the places where limited agency data do exist, they are not made publicly available or it takes years to release. On a national level, the sample size of NHOPI persons is small. The NHOPI category in national studies and reports is often represented by a dot, dash, or an asterisk because of lack of data. This relegates these populations to being demographic afterthoughts. Unfortunately, there is not enough reliable data to provide a comprehensive and accurate picture of NHOPI health and health care utilization.

NHOPI communities are eager to move forward with their efforts to improve their people's health. A scientific-based health survey focused on NHOPI peoples would help provide a more holistic picture of their health and health care needs and assets. **This survey would establish baseline health information** to inform health policy and interventions so that individual and community health can be properly tracked and evaluated. Additionally, it would provide **critical information for both NHOPI communities' health care providers and organizations** that work with these communities to develop appropriate health care strategies.

H.R. 3680 AND S. 1732 has received the endorsement by such national organizations as American Association for International Aging, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association, Asian American Justice Center, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, National Health Law Program, National Hispanic Medical Association, Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition, Samoan National Nurses Association, Guam Communications Network, National Organization for the Advancement of Chamorro People, Taulama for Tongans; Tongan American Youth Foundation, and so many more organizations.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs passed resolution 09-42, Urging the Support of H.R. 3680/S.1732 to Amend the Public Health Services Act to Provide for a Health Survey Regarding Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, at its convention last year.

#### **About the AHCC**

The Association is a growing national confederation of fifty-eight Hawaiian Civic Clubs, located throughout the State of Hawai'i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia, Washington State, Tennessee, and Texas. It initiates and works to support actions that enhance the civic, economic, educational, health and social welfare of our communities, and in particular, the culture and welfare of the Native Hawaiian community.

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

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Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment Center (Formerly Children's Comprehensive Services)

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii

Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI

Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kaula, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'ala Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth) Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kalihl Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center  
Kona Unit

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

March 8, 2010

To: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair  
And members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

**Testimony in Support of HCR 104/HR 55 Supporting H.R. 3680 and S. 1732 To Amend the Public Health Service Act To Provide for Health Data Regarding Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders**

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 104/HR 55 Supporting H.R. 3680 and S. 1732 To Amend the Public Health Service Act To Provide for Health Data Regarding Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders.

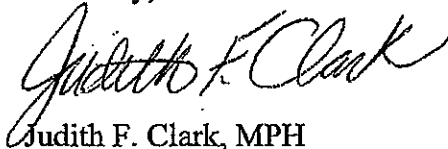
Public health data on Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders is usually grouped together with Asians. Across the United States, there are many more Asians than Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders and, in general, Asians fare much better on many health and social indicators than Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders. In Hawaii, for example, two-thirds of teen pregnancies occur among Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders and only 10% among Asian teens. More than 40% of Hawaii's incarcerated felons are Native Hawaiian.

Grouping Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders with Asians results in misleading information that distorts the health and social data and results in insufficient attention and resources for Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders on these issues.

With more precise and meaningful data, public health workers will be better prepared to address the needs of these populations and develop strategies to address health and social disparities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director