



SCR143 SD1

**REQUESTING THE STATE'S FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET'S STATISTICAL POLICY DIRECTIVE NO. 15, ENTITLED
"RACE AND ETHNIC STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL STATISTICS AND ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTING", AND THE PUBLICATION OF COLLECTED DATA SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE
STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.**

House Committee on Finance

April 20, 2012

3:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly SUPPORTS SCR143 SD1, which requests the state's full compliance with the United States Office of Management and Budget's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, entitled "race and ethnic standards for federal statistics and administrative reporting," and the publication of collected data subject to applicable state and federal laws.

Hawai'i's state agencies do not uniformly separate their demographic data regarding Asians, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders according to prevailing federal standards. These agencies also do not uniformly make their demographic data accessible to the public. For these reasons, entities like OHA that work to address the health, social, economic, and other needs of specific communities are often unable to gather sufficient data to identify and address the needs of these communities and to develop programs that can bring about meaningful systemic change.

Regional and local governments, elected officials, decision makers, and other entities that are responsible for addressing community needs would benefit greatly from the proper disaggregation and publication of data that SCR143 SD1 encourages. In particular, proper disaggregation and publication of data about Native Hawaiians would help the State, through OHA and other state agencies, to fulfill the State's trust responsibilities with respect to Native Hawaiians. Such disaggregation and publication would also facilitate the work of other entities that are supplementing the State's efforts with programs aimed at bettering the conditions of the Native Hawaiian community and other communities in need.

We strongly urge the committees to PASS SCR143 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.