



SCR143 / SR79

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.

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

March 28, 2012

3:15 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) strongly SUPPORTS SCR143, 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 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. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.