



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, SUITE 322  
HONOLULU, HI 96813

SERAFIN P. COLMENARES, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To: Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair  
Rep. Gene Ward, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Economic Development and Business

From: Serafin Colmenares Jr.  
Executive Director, Office of Language Access

Date: February 11, 2014, 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 312

Re: Testimony on H.B. 1616  
Relating to Health Planning

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The Office of Language Access (“OLA”) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1616 Relating to Health Planning. My name is Serafin Colmenares, Jr. and I am the Executive Director of OLA.

H.B. 1616 aims to update the Hawaii State Planning Act’s objectives for health to include a commitment to eliminating health disparities by explicitly addressing social determinants of health in order to reflect the latest medical findings relating to the health needs of Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

Statistics show that the limited English proficient (LEP) groups most in need of language services in Hawaii are Pacific Islanders and Filipinos. The health needs of these population groups are exacerbated by the language barriers that they face.

The social determinants of health – which include language access - have been recognized by national and international health organizations, including the World Health Organization, as major indicators of health status. As the “Health State”, it is imperative that Hawaii should make addressing the social determinants of health an integral part of the state’s health objectives. For these reasons, OLA strongly requests the committee members to support this bill.

OLA appreciates the opportunity to provide this testimony.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

**H.B. 1616, Relating to Health Planning**  
**House Committee on Economic Development and Business**  
**February 11, 2014; 9:00am**

Aloha Mai kakou!

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of H.B. 1616, Relating to Health Planning. My name is Diane Paloma, Director of the Native Hawaiian Health Program with The Queen's Health Systems.

My program that supports The Queens Medical Centers efforts in providing acute medical care oversees a variety of projects both within and external to health for Hawaiians. The various clinical initiatives within the hospital see a variety of chronic diseases; and by the time they arrive to the hospital, the individuals are extremely sick. Families must make quick decisions that are often guided by levels of insurance. While we will always continue to address their needs, we know that the root causes of these diseases begin years earlier. Part of our outreach and community building for Queens has recognized the need for evidence based preventive medicine that not just addresses illness, but health. OLA means health and it also means to live.

King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma knew that in order for their lāhui to survive, they would need to allow their people to live on. They experienced the ravaging effects of infectious disease upon populations of people and established the Queens Hospital in 1859 to address the community need for healthcare. While the times and technologies have changed, Queens is once again responding to a need for healthcare outside of urban Honolulu. With the opening of a West Oahu campus and a North Hawaii campus, we are extending our reach to larger Native Hawaiian populations. Programs at these sites will incorporate social determinants of health such as socioeconomic power, availability of fresh produce and access to healthcare and other health resources in their neighborhoods.

As a part of the Native Hawaiian health consortium (Nālimahana o lonopūhā), various health based organizations from across varied disciplines, queens recognizes that combined efforts and a focus on the things that made us sick in the beginning are critical to our success in controlling disease later in life. The late Loretta Fuddy was a part of this consortium and she openly recognized this connection. Addressing the social determinants of health is preventive medicine.

Supporting HB1616 provides the opportunity for a broader definition of health and well-being, and a broader way of addressing health for those who need it most.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*



**HPCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**House Committee on Economic Development & Development**

The Hon. Cliff Tsuji, Chair

The Hon. Gene Ward, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1616**

**Relating to Health Planning**

**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer**

**February 11, 2014, 9:00 am, Room 312**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 1616, calling for the identification of social determinants of health to reduce health disparities among Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

House Bill 1616 seeks to identify those specific social determinants that adversely affect Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. As these populations make a sizeable percentage of patients seen by community health centers each year, the HPCA strongly supports this measure

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HEALTHYPACIFIC.ORG**

[restoringjusticehi@gmail.com](mailto:restoringjusticehi@gmail.com)

**LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY**

**HB1616**

RELATING TO HEALTH PLANNING

**House Committee on Economic Development and Business**

February 11, 2014

9:00 A.M.

Capitol Room 312

Aloha mai kākou,

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB1616**, which allows state agencies to plan and invest in programs that adopt a comprehensive, modern, cost- and life - saving approach to improving public health outcomes in both the short and long terms.

Addressing social determinants of health will save both money and lives in promoting the health and well- being of all our communities. Planning around the social determinants of health is a common - sense policy approach that recognizes how social circumstances can affect our ability to ensure our own health and well - being. Cultural, linguistic, economic and social barriers, among others, can often prevent individuals from meaningfully accessing the resources needed to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle, or avoid unnecessary complications that can lead to the costly exacerbation of existing medical conditions. By allowing state agencies to finally address such barriers to a healthy life, this bill will save the state both money and lives while also improving the conditions of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Filipinos, as well as all those who may face similar barriers as these particularly health-vulnerable groups.

In contrast, cutting off Pacific Islanders and other immigrants from accessing critical healthcare services that they have and continue to pay into – as has been attempted by the previous administration – has thus far proven to be a failure in both cost savings and in the moral integrity and social fabric of our island community. Had the previous administration taken a social determinants of health approach to planning and investment five years ago, it is highly likely that the state would have already realized a substantial cost savings in terms of reactive and emergency room care, and avoided the unnecessary illnesses and deaths that have since occurred.

Therefore, HealthyPacific.Org respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS HB1616**, and make Hawai'i a healthier and happier place for all people who call these islands home.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**ward2-Robin**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:43 PM  
**To:** edbtestimony  
**Cc:** mkhan@hawaiiintel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 11, 2014 09:00AM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for EDB on Feb 11, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am transmitting testimony in support of HB1616 that I earlier submitted when this bill was heard by another committee. It is sent for consideration by the ERB committee: As indicated in the bill, social determinants of health is the single most important factor in individual and population health outcomes. While medical care can prolong survival and improve prognosis after some serious diseases, more important for the health of the population are the social and economic conditions that make people ill and in need of medical care in the first place. An assessment made by the John A. Burns School of Medicine indicated that Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos, as a collective, continue to have disparate health outcomes compared to the rest of the state. Inclusion of a commitment to social determinants of health as a priority in the Hawaii State Planning Act acknowledges this disparity and reflects positively on the legislature for recognizing this situation and attempting to do something about it.

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**ward2-Robin**

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**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2014 11:26 AM  
**To:** edbtestimony  
**Cc:** wctanaka@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 11, 2014 09:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for EDB on Feb 11, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support the modernization of our health planning statute to allow the state to plan around social determinants of health. This would encourage a proactive and much more cost-effective approach to promoting the health and well-being of our entire society, that has been recognized as a priority on the national and international levels. This bill will allow the state to more effectively and efficiently invest resources to address health gaps for both health-vulnerable communities as well as the larger population. Mahalo for your consideration and support of this important measure!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2014 11:11 AM  
**To:** edbtestimony  
**Cc:** dejamarie@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 11, 2014 09:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for EDB on Feb 11, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deja	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am testifying in support of HB1616, which modernizes the state planning act. While the United States leads the world in health care spending, our wellbeing lags far behind our peers. This is because much of what affects our health is determined by what happens outside of the doctor's office: what public health professionals call the "social determinants of health." For Hawai'i's most vulnerable communities, the reality is that public policy decisions make it far too hard to make the kinds of decisions that are necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Here in our own homeland, Native Hawaiians are among the hardest hit by social determinants of health, resulting in our state's first people ranking last in many wellness indicators. Other Pacific Islanders and Filipinos face similar challenges. The best way to address our state's challenges overall is through a dual commitment to addressing health disparities as well as the broader social determinants of health that affect us all. The State Planning Act ("Act"), HRS Ch. 226, is a policy-setting document intended to improve state planning, increase government effectiveness, and improve coordination among different agencies, making it the appropriate vehicle for this change. The World Health Organization, the United States Department of Health and Human Service's Healthy People 2020 and the Center for Disease Control all recognize social determinants of health as the single most influential factor in individual and population health outcomes, more so than genetic disposition or medical care. While the Federal government has codified its commitment to Native Hawaiian health for over twenty-five years, and addressing the social determinants of health is a research based health planning methodology embraced by most health organizations and governmental agencies, the State of Hawai'i has yet to follow suit. This measure will have no direct fiscal implications, but will ensure that state agencies that want to modernize their own planning and priorities will have statutory authorization to do so. Please PASS this measure.

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:: Leanne Kealoha Fox ::

2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District

House District: 39  
Senate District: 18

February 10, 2014

**HB 1616**

**Relating to Health Planning**

House Committee on Economic Development & Business

Aloha a welina mai nei e nā alaka'i:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write testimony to **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1616 relating to health planning.

Here in our own homeland, Native Hawaiians are among the hardest hit by social determinants of health, resulting in our state's first people ranking last in many wellness indicators. Other Pacific Islanders and Filipinos face similar challenges.

The best way to address Native Hawaiian health in particular and our state's challenges overall is through a dual commitment to Native Hawaiian health as well as the broader social determinants of health that affect us all.

Incorporating a holistic understanding of health and wellbeing into health planning is consistent with the Kānaka Maoli concept of maui ola, which considers the entirety of our well-being as contributing to the health of ourselves and the larger community.

Though some segments of Hawai'i's population may rank high in national health outcomes, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos continue to have life expectancies drastically lower than others groups and much higher rates of chronic disease. This bill implements policy changes to allow state agencies discretion to implement best practices in health planning and support targeted services, interventions, and programs that are proven successes in improving health outcomes for Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.

Updating the state planning act to include social determinants provides support for state agencies that decided to address unequal conditions in housing, education, social services, leisure, individual rights, and public safety are created, influenced and shaped by social policies and politics.

Implementing policy that allows state agencies to address the social determinants of health simply makes our approach to healthcare more efficient, and benefits our entire population. Targeting preventative resources to communities most significantly affected by barriers to good health can provide greater overall access to health facilities in rural areas, affordable and safe housing, affordable fresh fruits and vegetables and preventative healthcare for all the people of Hawai'i.

I urge the committee to **PASS** HB1616.

Respectfully, me ka `oia`i`o.

Letter of Support for HB 1616





commitment to impacting Maui Ola via direct service providers in a multi-disciplinary way. Our grantees have a proven track record of integrated and comprehensive programs that reach patients more frequently with quality, cost-effective services (both clinical and preventative).

Where we live and work has an impact on our health, long before we ever see a doctor. It's time we expand the way we think about health, and ensure health planning takes a holistic and efficient approach that helps healthy people stay healthy, before the onset of health issues that are much more difficult and expensive to address. **Allowing state agencies to include the social determinants of health in their policy planning and discretionary use of resources ensures modernized health planning, effective use of resources and better health outcomes for all.** HB1616 is one step in this direction.

Therefore, OHA urges the committees to **PASS** HB1616. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



*KOKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER*  
2239 N. SCHOOL STREET ♦ HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819  
♦ TEL: 808-791-9400 ♦ FAX: 808-848-0979 ♦ [www.kkv.net](http://www.kkv.net)

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair  
Rep. Gene Ward, Vice Chair

2/11/2014

Dear Leaders and Members of the Health and Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs Committees,

Kokua Kalihi Valley (KKV) strongly supports HB1616, which modernizes the state planning act in important ways to strategically focus our policies to build a stronger, healthier Hawai'i.

This measure adds the social determinants of health to the State planning act and encourages all state agencies, not just the Department of Health, to consider these most powerful factors that influence health outcomes.

KKV is proud of its 40 plus years of medical, dental and behavioral health programs to the residents of Kalihi. We know that access to affordable, high quality patient centered care is a good thing. But we also know from our work in the community, that this care is neither the only thing, nor indeed the most important thing influencing whether or not our families are healthy. A tremendous amount of scientific research, as well as our own experience in the community shows that health begins where we live, work and play. Our connections to our family, our neighbors, the 'Aina; our sense of self-efficacy and control over the circumstances of our lives; our freedom from the toxic stress of racism and discrimination; our belief in our own unique gifts and the means to share them; these are the things that most matter to being healthy. Indeed, health literally means 'wholeness'. And so we are equally proud of our work on the land with our community at Ho'oulu 'Aina, our work with our Kapuna in our Elder programs, and many other ways we partner with our community to build a healthier Kalihi.

At present, Hawai'i State Planning Statutes do not explicitly recognize the social determinants of health as key policy considerations for planning. This is especially detrimental to our most vulnerable communities and racial and ethnic groups that continue to experience health disparities. Racial and ethnic health disparity elimination is a national priority, and HB1616 makes it a state priority.

The State of Hawai'i deserves a measure like HB1616 to support a principled, comprehensive, and strategic plan for achieving health care equity.

**Please PASS HB1616, and modernize the our State planning act to reflect current best practices. Please show your support for a healthier Hawai'i**

--

David D Derauf MD MPH

Executive Director

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Providing Medical & Dental Services, Health Education, Family Planning, Perinatal, WIC and Social  
Services to

Kalihi Valley residents since 1972. Neighbors being neighborly to neighbors.



**ward2-Robin**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2014 6:10 PM  
**To:** edbtestimony  
**Cc:** rbkarasuda@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 11, 2014 09:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for EDB on Feb 11, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
RaeDeen Karasuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strong support.

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**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2014 6:32 PM  
**To:** edbtestimony  
**Cc:** joakim@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1616 on Feb 11, 2014 09:00AM

**HB1616**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for EDB on Feb 11, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joakim Jojo Peter	COFA Community Advocacy Network	Support	No

Comments: COFA-Community Advocacy Network is in full supports of this bill.

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## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1616

House Committee on Economic Development & Business  
Report Title: OHA Package; State Planning Act; Health Disparities  
February 11, 2014, 9 a.m. | Hawai'i State Capital | House Conference Rm. 312

To: Honorable Rep. Cliff Tsuji, Chair and Honorable Rep. Gene Ward, Vice Chair  
Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Karen Awana, Rep. Tom Brower, Rep. Romy M. Cachola,  
Rep. Isaac Choy, Rep. Ken Ito, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Rep. James  
Kunane Tokioka, Rep. Jessica Wooley

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, AANCART Hawai'i Principal Investigator  
Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training  
UH Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity, 2600 Campus Rd. QLCSS Rm. 413, Honolulu, HI  
96822

Dear Hon. Rep. Tsuji, Chair; Hon. Rep. Gene Ward, Vice Chair; and Hon. Committee Members:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Principal Investigator for the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART), which is a Community Network Program of the National Cancer Institute. AANCART was established to reduce cancer health disparities among Asian Americans through research, education and training. AANCART Hawai'i is an integral part of a consortium of universities through sub-awards from parent institution University of California-Davis Cancer Center.

AANCART mentors McNair scholars at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to gain experience in the field of translational research, utilizing community-based participatory research. McNair scholars are first generation college students. They come from minority, economically disadvantaged groups, including Native Hawaiian and Filipino students, who are also over-represented in under-achieving public schools, and under-represented at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. We collaborated with DOH epidemiologist Ann Pobutsky to document social determinants to health disparities among Filipinos in Hawai'i.

For example, Kenneth Chu, retired chief of the Disparities Research Branch of the National Cancer Institute's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, found that Filipinos have the highest death rate in the nation due to cancer among Asian populations. In Hawai'i, Filipinos have among the lowest cancer screening rates and highest rates for late stage diagnosis of breast, prostate and colorectal cancers. Furthermore, a large health insurer found that Filipinos have the highest percentage of "lost to follow up" for receiving regular mammograms.

Given that, translational research generates strategic, lifesaving data that informs best practices for addressing society's complex disparities. But only one percent of the National Institute of Health research budget is allocated toward this end. At the same time, NIH found that it takes an average of 17 years for only 14% of bench research results to reach the bedside of patients with evidence-based healthcare practices. In spite of that small return from a multi-billion dollar, long-term investment of public funds, Filipinos, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other

vulnerable populations were still not benefitting equally from medical advances, as they disproportionately bear some of the greatest cancer burdens in the nation.

On one hand, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that while heart disease is the greatest killer in the U.S., for Asians, cancer is the number one cause of death. Consequently, Hawai`i's Office of State Planning has a pivotal role in addressing health disparities, as it provides guidance for the state with the largest percentage of Asians in the nation. On the other hand, we also know today that the cost of prohibitive catastrophic illnesses can be mitigated with prevention, education and early detection. If we had more sound evidence on social determinants of health, policy makers, state planners, health care providers, educators, employers, unions, individuals, and families themselves will be more informed stakeholders in Hawai`i, toted as the "Healthy State".

In closing, our Hawai`i state legislature has an opportunity to champion legislation for the Office of State Planning to include cutting edge research on social determinants to health disparities. You will be proud to know that UH McNair scholars of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage, and from the humblest of backgrounds, are demonstrating in local and national scientific conferences, that they are our nation's greatest assets to add to the body of knowledge of social determinants of health and health disparities.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to strongly support the direction of investing in generating social determinants data for policy making and planning to address health disparities. Good public health is good business. Good public health is everybody's business. Everybody will benefit.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH  
AANCART Hawai`i Principal Investigator



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**Executive Director**

Victor Geminiani, Esq.

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Supporting HB 1616 Relating to Health Planning  
House Committee on Economic Development and Business  
Scheduled for Hearing Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 9:00 AM, Room 312

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*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low-income individuals and families in Hawai'i on civil legal issues of statewide importance. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.*

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of House Bill 1616, which would add the identification of social determinants of health to reduce health disparities among Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos to the Hawai'i State Planning Act's objectives and policies.

As advocates on a variety of issues affecting low-income people, we recognize that many of these problems have a disproportionate impact on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. For example, looking at housing as a social determinant of health illustrates the complicated nature and disparate impact faced by Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. We face the highest overall rate of homelessness among the states and the highest housing costs. Digging deeper, neighborhoods with high populations of Native Hawaiians pay a dramatically higher amount of their income toward housing and transportation than other areas. We know that Native Hawaiians form a much higher percent of the homeless population. What are the implications of these troubling facts? Studies indicate that families who are cost-burdened by housing expenses reduce spending on food and medical care because they cannot make ends meet. Children face greater educational challenges and have poorer health indicators. These issues and many others require greater emphasis on social determinants of health to understand health outcomes and where to target our resources to address the most vulnerable populations.

An emphasis on social determinants of health for Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders will help us address these social issues such as housing that affect our entire community. We need a dual commitment to the health of these communities and a focus on broader social determinants that affect all of us. The federal government has long recognized the need to specifically address Native Hawaiian health, but Hawai'i itself is yet to do so. It's time to follow suit, and this bill will move us in the right direction. Again, thank you for an opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 1616.