



**SB2827**  
**RELATING TO HEALTH CARE TRANSFORMATION**  
Senate Committee on Health

February 5, 2014

1:30 p.m.

Room 229

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on SB2827, which would establish the Office of Health Care Transformation within the renamed State Health Planning and Development Authority, for the purpose of carrying out state health policy planning functions.

OHA's strategic priorities include Maui Ola (Health), which represents our commitment to improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians. In pursuit of this commitment, OHA has collaborated with the Office of the Governor's Hawai'i Healthcare Transformation Initiative (Initiative) and is a member of the Initiative's Steering Committee. As established by the Legislature in Act 224, Session Laws of 2013, the Initiative was specially created to focus on improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care services. The Initiative has since evolved, and this measure is an effort to create a permanent fixture for the Initiative within the newly created Office of Health Care Transformation, while expanding its purposes to include other health policy planning responsibilities.

Though not explicitly mentioned in this measure, OHA notes that the Initiative has specifically adopted achieving health equity as one of its guiding principles. Eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities and achieving health equity across demographics is a national priority, as unequal health outcomes and disparate well-being are pervasive even when people have health insurance and medical care. Under this priority, health care transformation is understood as community transformation. **Healthcare transformation in this state should therefore include a commitment to health equity and addressing the social determinants of health that impact health outcomes for Native Hawaiians and other health-vulnerable groups.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.