

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

COMMITTEE on WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

RE: SCR 31, SD1 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE REVIEW OF  
THE LICENSURE AND REGULATION OF HERBAL THERAPISTS

DATE: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

March 31, 2014

Aloha, I am Camarin Quitugua, a social worker currently studying at the University of Hawai'i.

I am testifying **in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 31, SD1 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE REVIEW OF THE LICENSURE AND REGULATION OF HERBAL THERAPISTS.**

Licensure affords herbal therapists a stronger foundation for issuing quality care and consumer protection. Those who practice herbal healing with proper knowledge and skills improve the health and wellness of many within our community. The licensure of this treatment addresses the need for appropriate practices and the regulation of malpractice within herbal therapy.

For centuries, indigenous peoples have found their physical, psychological, and spiritual healing to be in the plants and trees around them. Today, those who practice lā'au lapa'au and those who believe in its healing capabilities understand the truth in this theory of comprehensive health and total healing. This holistic approach to health is one that was important to our past people and should be important for us now.

With the influx of Western practices and models of treatment, traditional Hawaiian healing practices have been pushed aside. Currently, it is illegal for those who are not licensed medical doctors and acupuncturists to "practice medicine" outside of their family and friends. This leaves those who practice traditional medicine unable to provide treatment within the professional medical field. Healthcare consumers should be given alternatives for treatment. The licensure of herbal therapy would allow the right to desired, individualized care not only for Native Hawaiians but anyone else needing healthcare.

For these reasons and their benefits, I strongly encourage you to support SCR 31, SD1. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.