

LATE

SCR31

Submitted on: 3/20/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 21, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keali'i Gora	Ka Lei Papahi 'o Kakuhihewa	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha, my name is Kahelelani Clark.

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

I am a student of Levon Ohai. I have also learned about the importance of herbal therapy within my family. Currently I am an instructor of an Herbal Medicine course at the college level here in Hawaii. I have been studying herbal medicine for 13 years. I have been teaching about herbal medicine in a formal college classroom setting for 3 years.

I would like to be part of a community effort to provide this healthcare alternative for Hawaii. I believe that the community should be able to access these services to find a competent practitioner, receive the same support from their health insurance providers, and their workplace.

Herbal therapy has improved my health and the health of thousands around me. Many of these people had exhausted all medical avenues that were available. Others could have been helped too, if this service was made available to all. This is especially true if we look at the elders in our community and the youth. Most of the elderly community was raised on some form of herbal therapy. They feel comfortable using herbal medicine, which is familiar and less intrusive. The children in our community also need more hands on treatment and nurturing. So many of my students and the youth come from homeless, orphaned, and foster care experiences. I have seen them benefit from herbal therapy because the practice itself is nurturing, and again less intrusive. The reasons why herbal therapy benefits these groups is the same reason it will benefit our whole community.

You have the privilege to help the in the health of our community by approving this option of health care as a complementary service to current options. If health insurance covered herbal therapy, the option would be available to all. Since licensing is required for this to be an option, I ask for your support in licensing herbal therapy in Hawaii.

There is a worldwide movement for legislating herbalism and herbs, in 2005 the World Health Organization reported that 96 out of 120 countries had a national policy in place or pending for traditional medicine, complementary, and alternative medicine. The numbers are even higher now. Herbs, supplements and, alternative medicine are a billion dollar industry in the United States. The health and financial benefit Hawaii

would enjoy because of herbal licensing and therapy is important to consider. Medicines would be from Hawaii for Hawaii, and those dollars would stay in Hawaii.

For these reasons, I support SCR 31.
Thank you,

Kahelelani Clark
Kahelelani.clark@gmail.com

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

LATE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair

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

DATE: Friday, March 21, 2014
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Committee Members,

Aloha, my name is Patricia Fifita and I would like to provide testimony in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 31 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A SUNRISE REVIEW OF THE LICENSURE AND REGULATION OF HERBAL THERAPISTS.

I am a doctoral candidate in Medical Anthropology and Ethnobotany at the University of Hawai'i. I am a student of the late Kumu La'au Lapa'au Levon Ohai of Kaua'i and a member of the A'ali'i Council a group organized by Kumu Levon Ohai for the purpose of continuing the practice and perpetuation of his particular lineage of indigenous knowledge of Hawai'ian Herbal Medicine and healing.

I have been studying and practicing Herbal Medicine for over fifteen years. I completed a two-year apprenticeship with an U.S.-based Herbalist and I have spent several years conducting ethnobotanical and ethnomedical research focusing on Herbal Medicine and the use of medicinal plants for healing. These studies have taken me to various parts of the world, including New Zealand, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Hawai'i, West African and the Caribbean. I have witnessed first-hand the value of Herbal Medicine these various cultures, where herbal medicine has often provided the first and most important line of prevention and defense against serious infectious diseases such as malaria and typhoid fever. I have witnessed the efficacy of Herbal Medicine in the reducing inflammation in sports or other physical injuries, in the detoxification of body systems, also in treating various viral and fungal infections; ailments that are common in many of these countries but difficult to treat with conventional medicine. Herbal Medicine, I believe, also has an incredible potential to reduce morbidity and mortality rates for non-communicable diseases that according to the World Health Organization (2011) are responsible for killing more than 36 million people each year.¹ I have personally witnessed the efficacy of Herbal Medicine as a complementary treatment for individuals with cancer. My

¹ WHO. (2011). Fact Sheet: Noncommunicable Diseases.

mother is a two-time cancer survivor and utilized Herbal Medicine to strengthen her immune system while undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Not only did she experienced increased strength in her overall system, the uncomfortable side effects normally experienced with adjuvant and radiation therapy such as dry mouth, burns, loss of hair and appetite, were dramatically reduced for her. She attributes her successful recovery to her integrative treatment approach.

Herbal Medicine is not only sustainable, but can provide a pathway to health and healing that is not always obtainable through a convention biomedically based health care system. For many people, Herbal Medicine would be the first line of defense in their health care journey, however there are very few spaces and contexts in which Herbal Medicine can be administered and practiced legally in Hawai'i. The fact that health insurance companies are not able to provide coverage for Herbal Medicine not only privileges other health care modalities but also limits the practice and availability of health care options that the public should have access to.

While I may be able to continue to use and practice Herbal Medicine within my own home and among close friends and family, I feel strongly that this is too limiting. If I were able to provide services in a legal way I would be able to reach a larger demographic of deserving people, who I know could benefit from Herbal Medicine. I believe that all people should have the ability to use Herbal Medicine in a safe and affordable way. I believe those who choose to practice, and if they do so in a safe and appropriate way, deserve the right to be acknowledged and compensated as other health care practitioners using other health care modalities currently are. It is my understanding that SCR 31 will provide the opportunity for this possibility and pathway to develop.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage you to consider my testimony in support of SCR 31.

Mahalo,

Patricia Fifita
PhD Candidate
Medical Anthropology Program
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
pfifita@hawaii.edu

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vince Kana'i Dodge	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, please support this important step, in this very needed practical bill that supports the health of our communities. Alternative herbal health care has reduced suffering and saved countless lives. Thank you for keeping us regular folks in mind when you are making decisions. aloha nui, Vince Kana'i Dodge

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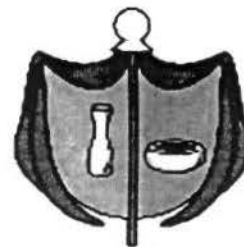
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am a la'au Lapa'au practioner. I have trained and fulfilled my kuleana as a practioner with the late Po'okela La'au Lapa'au Henry Auwae. I teach Hawaiian culture, and within this cultural service I provide, I speak, share, and education indivuduals on La'au Lapa'au practices. Just remember that La'au is NOT for sale! Please support this bill. I would also like the opprotunity to be healed and treated by an hearbalist. With two recent deaths with young individuals who were sedated in Dentist office, Im loosing my faith in western medicine. Mahalo, Jonathan Kuahiwi Moniz

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Mobile Native Hawaiian Health Inc.
4026 Alala Place
Lihue, HI 96766
Ph. (808)284-0999
Fax: (808)212-1788

March 21, 2014

Attention: State Legislatures

Re: SCR 31 Sunrise Review for Licensing Herbal Therapist

Honorable Members,

Mobile Native Hawaiian Health Inc. is in support of SCR 31. The late Levon Ohai was the founding member of our non-profit whose mission is to "Provide direct health care services to rural areas of Hawai'i Nei". Our organization has helped to secure funding in assisting families with providing long-term care services for the aged, blind, and disabled and for the youth placement into post-high degree programs in healthcare services and management. Levon's vision was to bring healthcare services into every 'ohana who needed it, la'au lapa'au was the grounding force as Levon believed in that Kc Akua (God) provided cures in plants for ailments which he shared in his teachings at the University of Hawaii.

Kumu Levon Ohai grew up on the island of Kauai, close to his grandfather Benjamin Ohai, who passed on his knowledge of la'au lapa'au to Levon. "Warriors" as he called it these healing plants were used to cleanse, heal, and strengthen the body. Sharing his knowledge of La'au Lapa'au to his students and Kupuna became his lifetime work and dream to inspire, share and lobby for the licensing of herbal therapy for students desiring to use their knowledge to heal the sick and change lives.

Tragically Levon died of his exposure to Agent Orange while serving his country in Vietnam as a Chemical Specialist for defoliation. For years his herbs kept him alive when many of his fellow Vietnam comrades died 4-5 years after their exposure.

We humbly ask that you move this great work forward for our people of Hawaii through the licensing of herbal therapy.

Sincerely,

Wilma Holi
Chair

Jacqueline Ohai
Co-Chair, Kumu Levon Ohai Widow