



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

LATE

Papa Ola Lokahi

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Sen. Donovan M. DelaCruz, Chair

Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair

OPPOSED TO

SB 1304 - RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS

February 23, Thursday, 10:30 AM, Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

Board of Directors

Member Organizations

Hoola Lahui Hawaii

Hui No Ke Ola Pono

Hui Malama Ola Na Oiwai

ALU LIKE

Ke Ola Mamo

E Ola Mau

University of Hawaii

Hawaii State Department of Health

Na Puuwai

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Kupuna

Aunty Betty Jenkins

Executive Director

Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD

Greetings of aloha to Chair DelaCruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, is in agreement with the body of data that highlights the absence of equity for Native Hawaiians where health and well-being is concerned. We address these disparities in our work every day.

Papa Ola Lōkahi must OPPOSE SB 1304 SD 1 because the proposed advisory council is redundant, and the activities requested can be directed to existing entities.

Bearing both federal and state statutory authority, POL has both the kuleana and the federal funding for policy related to Hawaiian health.

Originally, this bill was written as a public policy advisory council to be charged with providing guidance to the governor and legislature on issues that impact Native Hawaiians and their communities. Other initiatives created by the Legislature exist to perform the functions of a Hawaiian public policy advisory entity.

As amended, SB 1304 purports to create a Hawaiian *health* advisory council that duplicates the mandates borne by Papa Ola Lōkahi.

The Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act ([P.L. 111-148, Title 42 USC 122](#)), originally passed by Congress in 1988 and most recently in 2010 within the Affordable Care Act, authorizes Papa Ola Lōkahi, the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, and the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program to *raise the health status of Native Hawaiians*. We address health disparities in Hawai'i by being involved in policy, research, data & information, development and implementation of programs and initiatives, protection and perpetuation of traditional Hawaiian healing practices, health workforce development, and more. To do all this, the NHHCIA brings in \$14.4 million federal funding to the State.

The Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (NHHCIA) also authorizes the Hawai'i Department of Health, the University of Hawai'i, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs (and others) to contribute to raising the health status of Native Hawaiians through Papa Ola Lōkahi. Despite this mandate, POL has *never* received general funding from the state or counties.

continued

Our five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, situated on six islands, implement the programs and provide direct and enabling services. They contribute the community voices to the policy work that Papa Ola Lōkahi leads.

The NHHCIA also requires the federal government to consult with Papa Ola Lōkahi in matters of Hawaiian health. We have long had the same relationship with the State of Hawai'i.

As for the tasks identified in SB 1304:

- Papa Ola Lōkahi does regularly present itself to the legislature on issues that impact Native Hawaiians and our communities' health outcomes;
- Papa Ola Lōkahi has networks of Native Hawaiian health professionals, as well as relationships with professionals across disciplines to look at social determinants and cultural beliefs and practices that impact health outcomes; and
- Papa Ola Lōkahi and the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program are collaborating on a directory of Hawaiian health professionals; and are already partnering with the John A. Burns School of Medicine's Area Health Education Center to coordinate events in 2018 and 2019 that will bring together health professionals of Hawaiian ancestry.

Since 1988, Papa Ola Lōkahi has had both the kuleana and the federal funding to address Hawaiian health policy. We commit to continuing to collaborate with professional and community partners, and to provide guidance around Hawaiian health policy. We are not invisible; we are at your service.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony **IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1304**.



Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD
Executive Director, Papa Ola Lōkahi



To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Ways and Means

From: Gerard Akaka, MD, Vice President, Native Hawaiian Affairs and Clinical Support, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 22, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Ways and Means Decision Making; Friday, February 23, 2018 at 10:30 A.M. in Room 211

Re: **Support for SB 1304, SD1, Relating to Native Hawaiians**

My name is Gerard Akaka, and I am a Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my support for SB 1304, SD1, relating to Native Hawaiians. This bill would implement the recommendations of the Native Hawaiian Health Taskforce by establishing a Native Hawaiian public policy advisory council to be temporarily administratively housed within the Office of Health Equity, in the Department of Health. The council would provide guidance to the governor and the legislature on significant policies impacting Native Hawaiians and to establish, update, and maintain a directory or registry of Native Hawaiian professionals and leaders with an understanding of Hawaiian culture for governor-appointed leadership positions, boards, and commissions at the state and county levels.

For over 150 years, QHS has been committed to the mission of providing quality health care services in perpetuity to Native Hawaiians as well as all the people of Hawai'i. As an organization founded by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV in 1859, we are committed to supporting and working with community-based stakeholders to address the health disparities of the Native Hawaiian people. For the state of Hawai'i, Native Hawaiians are over 2 times as likely to experience diabetes compared to the white population and have the highest rates of deaths due to cancer compared to any other ethnic group. While QHS continues to invest in education and community projects across the state to promote Native Hawaiian health, there are still unmet needs for health services.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

LATE

SB-1304-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:28:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noalani Nakasone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian living on Kauai

I urge you to please Support this Bill.

Mahalo!

LATE

SB-1304-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:53:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mona Daniels	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1304-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:12:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hardy Spoehr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. My name is Hardy Spoehr, retired executive director of Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board. I am saddened to see that the legislature feels it necessary to consider the formation of a new advisory Native Hawaiian health body when it has at hand already a Native Hawaiian health board which in the past has acted as advisory in health matters relating to Native Hawaiian communities in the state and nationally. This body, Papa Ola Lokahi, was formed in 1987 when more than 20 representatives from the Native Hawaiian community met under the direction of Native Hawaiian leadership headed up by Myron B. Thompson, Uncle Tommy Kaulukukui, and Auntie Gladys Brandt with support from Jack Lewin, then the Director of Health. The organization's board was purposely established similar to that of an authority with board members being the major health organizations providing health services to Native Hawaiians throughout the state, not individuals. This continues to be the case today. In 1988 when federal legislation addressing Native Hawaiian health was passed as the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act (NHHCA), Papa Ola Lokahi was identified as the entity to serve as the health board addressing Native Hawaiian health in Hawai'i and nationally. The NHHCA was codified in the United States Code (USC) in 42 USC 11701-11710. This remains today and is the only Native Hawaiian health entity so recognized in federal law.

Besides being able to do all the things noted in SB104SD1, Papa Ola Lokahi has the added advantage of having 'consultation' authority as defined in the act directly with the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services; an ability not afforded any other state agency or non-profit organization.

In summary, over its more than 30 years of operation, Papa Ola Lokahi has been active in Native Hawaiian and Indigenous communities throughout the state of Hawai'i, in the Pacific Islands, on the continent, and internationally. It has undertaken community based research, disseminated health data, supported traditional Native Hawaiian healing traditions, and has been key to building a workforce of Native Hawaiian health professionals, including physicians, nurses, social workers, clinical psychologists, pharmacists, and other primary care professionals.

I would ask that you defer SB 1304 SD1 and work within the confines of Papa Ola Lokahi as it readily has state agency representation on its board through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the University of Hawai'i, and the State Department of Health. Over

the years Papa Ola Lokahi has never received a direct legislative appropriation for the work that it does on behalf of Native Hawaiian health in the state. I am sure the organization stands ready to advise the Governor on any health issues should he desire. It has provided such advise in the past to former Governors and legislators. If the legislature wishes to take a position on Native Hawaiian health, I would submit that it consider passing legislation (perhaps by resolution) pertinent to the state barrowing some of the language expressed in 42 USC 11702 (Declaration of Policy) to express something like: "The State of Hawai`i hereby declares that it is the policy of the State of Hawai`i in fulfillment of its special responsibilities and legal obligations to the Indigenous Peoples of Hawai`i (1) to raise the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible health level; and (2) to provide existing Native Hawaiian health care programs with all resources necessary to effectuate this policy."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Aloha and best wishes to all.

Hardy Spoehr

LATE

SB-1304-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 3:15:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keaulana Holt	Testifying for Native Hawaiian Scholarship Program at Papa Ola Lokahi	Oppose	No

Comments:

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SB 1304

TO ESTABLISH A NATIVE HAWAIIAN PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE GOVERNOR ON SIGNIFICANT POLICIES IMPACTING NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

Aloha mai, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, I am Keaulana Holt, M.S.W., the director of the Native Hawaiian Scholarship Program at Papa Ola Lokahi. I wish to submit this testimony in opposition of SB 1304.

This proposal to establish a Native Hawaiian health advisory council in the office of health equity to provide guidance to the governor and legislature on issues that impact Native Hawaiians and their communities is unnecessary. This measure proposes to duplicate efforts and provisions already undertaken by Papa Ola Lokahi as mandated

and funded under The Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (NHHCIA - P.L. 111-148, Title 42 USC 122) originally passed by Congress in 1988 and most recently in 2010 within the Affordable Care Act.

The NHHCIA authorizes Papa Ola Lokahi (POL) together with the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems (NHHCS), and the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program (NHHSP) to raise the health status of Native Hawaiians. In so doing, and for nearly three decades, Papa Ola Lokahi continues to address health disparities, conducts community based research, disseminates data and census information, develops and implements programs and initiatives, advocates for the protection and perpetuation of traditional Hawaiian healing practices, and among other noted efforts POL continues to guide the building of a Native Hawaiian workforce of doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

In addressing the requirement of the proposed advisory council to establish, update, and maintain a directory or registry of Native Hawaiian professionals and leaders, Papa Ola Lokahi and the Native Hawaiian Scholarship Program has updated and maintained a directory of those health professionals awarded scholarships since 1991. Here are the some of statistics of our program:

274 Awards - Total Number of Awards to Date

253 Scholars - Total Number of Scholars (less additional advanced degree awards made to Alumni scholars)

189 Female / 64 Male - Total Number of male and female scholars

196 Alumni / 57 Active Scholars - Total Number of "Active" scholars and Alumni

10 average awards per year for the past 27 years

What are the number of awards by profession?

(25) Registered Nurse Associates Degree

(45) Registered Nurse Bachelor's Degree

(20) Nurse Practitioner (APRN) Master's Degree

(2) Doctor Nurse Practitioner

(9) Dentist

(11) Dental Hygienist

(58) Medical Doctors

(7) Physician Assistants

(2) Dietetics

(9) Public Health Master's Degree

(11) Marriage Family Therapist

(47) Social Work Master's Degree

(18) Clinical Psychologist

(8) Pharmacist

(2) Optometry

Total 274 Awards

Papa Ola LÅ• kahi and the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program are collaborating on a directory to include other Native Hawaiian health professionals; and are already partnering with the John A. Burns School of Medicine's (JABSOM) Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to coordinate events in 2018 and 2019 that will bring together health professionals of Hawaiian ancestry.

As the director for the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program at Papa Ola Lokahi, I will continue with the task in further developing the directory of Native Hawaiian professionals with the leadership of Papa Ola Lokahi and the collaboration with other identified stakeholders. In the meantime, I humbly ask your committee to defer this bill in recognition and in the collaborative spirit intended by The Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (NHHCIA) that authorizes the Hawai'i State Department of Health, the University of Hawai'i, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs (and others) to contribute to raising the health status of Native Hawaiians through Papa Ola LÅ• kahi.

I thank you for the opportunity to share my comments in opposition of SB 1304.

M. Keaulana Holt, Director

Native Hawaiian Scholarship Program

Papa Ola Lokahi

LATE

SB-1304-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:18:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanne Kapela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee,

I am a 23-year-old Native Hawaiian woman. I grew up in the Kona community on the Big Island, but my family was not affluent. We had enough to get by, but little more. Looking back on my childhood, I can see that the struggles we faced were not only the result of individual choices, but stemmed from generations of dispossession and cultural trauma faced by the Native Hawaiian people in their homeland.

Ever since the onslaught on annexation in 1898, the Hawaiian people have been marginalized. Hawaiian children comprise the largest demographic in the public school system, yet Hawaiian language and cultural programming is scarce and has been cut back to make room for standardized testing. Hawaiians are also dramatically overrepresented in the state's prison system. People of Native Hawaiian ancestry make up roughly 25 percent of the state's population, but approximately 39 percent of incarcerated detainees, according to a comprehensive study by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The situation is even worse for Hawaiian women, who comprise 19.8 percent of the state's female population, but 44 percent of the state's female inmate population. We are routinely denied access to sacred lands and silenced in conversations about how to care for our beloved 'Ä• ina, including atop the summit of Mauna Kea.

Elected officials cannot make informed decisions about how government policies will impact the indigenous community without a better understanding of Hawaiian history and Hawaiian's cultural practices, which the advisory committee called for by this bill will provide. As an emerging young leader, I want to build a future in which myself and my children are filled with aloha and reverence for the manner in which who we were yesterday shapes who we are today and where we will voyage tomorrow. For the sake of future generations of Hawaiians and the preservation of their previous heritage, I humbly ask you to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Jeanne Kapela