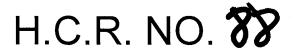
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019 STATE OF HAWAII



## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AS MEMBERS TO THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH AT LEAST TWO INDIVIDUALS WITH DEMONSTRATED KNOWLEDGE OF OR WORK EXPERIENCE INVOLVING NATIVE HAWAIIAN CONCEPTS OF WELL-BEING, CULTURALLY-GROUNDED MENTAL HEALTH METHODOLOGIES, OR TRADITIONAL HEALING OR HEALTH PRACTICES.

1 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians experience distinct health disparities that pervade their day-to-day well-being and hinder 2 their overall health; and 3 4 5 WHEREAS, mental health disparities between Native Hawaiians and other ethnicities begin in adolescence; and 6 7 8 WHEREAS, mental health data demonstrate that youth suicide 9 attempts and death rates are highest among Native Hawaiians; and 10 11 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian youth are two times more likely 12 than their Caucasian peers to attempt suicide; and 13 WHEREAS, suicide and attempted suicide among Native 14 Hawaiians have profound impacts on families and communities; and 15 16 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian keiki are overrepresented among 17 victims of abuse and neglect; and 18 19 20 WHEREAS, by high school, female Native Hawaiian students experience feelings of sadness or hopelessness to a greater 21 degree than their peers; and 22 23 24 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian youth maintain some of the highest 25 rates of drug use in the State; and 26



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WHEREAS, these mental health disparities continue for 1 2 Native Hawaiians through adulthood and into their senior years; 3 and 4 5 WHEREAS, a significant number of Native Hawaiians underuse existing mental health services, seek therapy only after their 6 illnesses becomes severe, or leave mental health treatment 7 prematurely; and 8 9 WHEREAS, cultural incongruence with Western mental health 10 approaches may affect Native Hawaiians' willingness to use 11 mental health services; and 12 13 WHEREAS, experts find that patients are more likely to seek 14 out and use mental health services when their values and beliefs 15 are congruent with the interventions provided; and 16 17 18 WHEREAS, Act 155, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, codified a commitment to address health disparities in section 19 226-20(a)(7), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which includes the 20 21 prioritization of "programs, services, interventions and activities that address identified social determinants of health 22 to improve Native Hawaiian health and well-being" among the 23 24 objectives to be included in planning for the State's socio-25 cultural advancement with regard to health; and 26 27 WHEREAS, eliminating health disparities and achieving health equity across demographics is a state and national 28 29 priority; and 30 WHEREAS, because the State Council on Mental Health is 31 32 responsible for advising, reviewing and evaluating the allocation and adequacy of mental health resources and services 33 in the State, it is imperative that the Council include members 34 35 with knowledge of or work experience involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being, culturally-grounded mental health 36 37 methodologies, or traditional healing or health practices; and 38 39 WHEREAS, in light of the commitment embodied in Act 155, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, it is in the best interest of the 40 State to ensure that there is appropriate Native Hawaiian 41

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cultural representation on the State Council on Mental Health; 1 2 and 3 4 WHEREAS, pursuant to sections 334-10 and 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the members of the State Council on Mental 5 Health are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent 6 of the Senate; now, therefore, 7 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 9 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 10 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is urged to 11 12 appoint as members to the State Council on Mental Health at least two individuals with demonstrated knowledge of or work 13 experience involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being, 14 15 culturally-grounded mental health methodologies, or traditional healing or health practices; and 16 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 18 19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and 20 Chairperson of the State Council on Mental Health. 21 22 23 OFFERED BY Maller y IIIn

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