



Kanu Hawaii

1050 Queen Street, Suite 100, Honolulu, HI 96814

Telephone: 808.206.8446 - Email: keone@kanuhawaii.org - <http://www.KanuHawaii.org>

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TESTIMONY OF KEONE KEALOHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KANU HAWAII IN SUPPORT OF HR125 & HCR135, RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER WEEK IN HAWAII

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment, Tuesday, March 19, 2010 9:35 a.m. Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice-Chair Eli and Committee Members :

I am providing testimony in SUPPORT of HR125 & HCR135 RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER WEEK IN HAWAII.

This resolution seeks to recognize Volunteer Week in the Sate of Hawaii for the years 2020 and 2021. The dates mirror the dates of National Volunteer Week for those same years. Although National Volunteer Week has been celebrated every year since 1974 by Presidential Proclamation, Hawaii only officially recognized the week beginning in 2018 when the legislature passed HCR153_SD1.

Through the support of that resolution in 2018, the community held over 60 events across 5 islands. Now, in its second year, Volunteer Week in Hawaii 2019 is being celebrated by over 85 organizations hosting over 100 events across 7 islands. With your support, next year we hope to have all 8 strips on the Hawaiian flag represented.

2018 was also a year of natural disasters across Hawaii. Proactively engaging community to volunteer during blue sky times will inevitably result in strength of response during gray skies. And as the data has shown us, the number one determining factor of a community's ability to respond and recover from a natural disaster is the health of its social links and strength of our relationships.

With the passage of HR125 & HCR135 and continued recognition of Volunteer Week in Hawaii, we hope to to increase the level of volunteer engagement and capacity building for Hawaii's population, including its non-profits and community organizations, in the years to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Keone Kealoha
Executive Director, Kanu Hawaii