

SB 193

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH.
Report Title:	OHA Package; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; State Council on Mental Health; Native Hawaiian Health Practices
Description:	Requires the State Council on Mental Health to comprise at least 3 members 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.
Companion:	HB174
Package:	Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Current Referral:	CPH/HWN
Introducer(s):	KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party)



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 25, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection & Health

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 193 – RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON
MENTAL HEALTH**

Hearing: February 26, 2019, 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

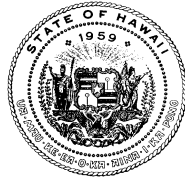
DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this measure. Including council members with knowledge and experience working with Native Hawaiian healing and health practices will bring additional insight and expertise to the work of the council. DHS is currently represented on the council by Chad Koyanagi, M.D., psychiatrist with the Med-QUEST Division (MQD), who is also actively involved in addressing the issues of mental illness and homelessness; Shannessy Ahu, representative with vocational rehabilitation experience and who is now with the Office of Youth Services-Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, and Katheryn Boyer, representative from Child Welfare Services.

PURPOSE: Requires the State Council on Mental Health to comprise at least 3 members 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.

The Med-QUEST Division (MQD) serves 1 in 4 Hawaii residents and nearly half of the state's children with Medicaid insurance coverage. MQD has identified behavioral health integration, greater access to behavioral health services, and the provision of housing support services to individuals experiencing homelessness as top priorities. The priorities are reflected in the Hawai'i 'Ohana Nui Project Expansion (HOPE) initiative and the overall strategic vision of MQD.

Though DHS delivers significant amount of financial benefits, nutrition assistance, child care subsidies, protective services, homeless services, vocational rehabilitation services, and health insurance statewide in gender and race neutral processes, there are persistent and disparate outcomes for native Hawaiians and Polynesians. DHS is committed to reducing the incidence of intergenerational poverty through a multigenerational approach, providing responsive services concurrently to all members of the family or household. We are in the process of improving our IT and data systems and redesigning business processes, with the goal to provide recipients and their families with the most informed services and support they need to succeed and improve their long-term health and well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0193
RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

SENATOR MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Room: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of this measure is to require the State Council on Mental
3 Health (SCMH) to comprise at least three members with demonstrated knowledge or work
4 experience involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being, culturally grounded mental health
5 methodologies, or traditional healing or health practices. The Department of Health (DOH)
6 supports this measure and provides the following comments.

7 The SCMH was created in 1984 (ACT 218, Hawaii State Legislature). In its advisory
8 capacity, the SCMH advocates for Hawaii adolescents, adults, and their families and provides
9 recommendations to the DOH on community issues related to mental health and substance
10 abuse. The SCMH is a federally mandated advisory board.

11 Applicants for SCMH membership are processed through the Hawaii State Boards and
12 Commissions office based on general applicant criteria and specific criteria for the composition
13 of the council as outlined in §334-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 The DOH recognizes that diversity within the SCMH broadens the SCMH membership.
15 We also observe that Native Hawaiians and those of Hawaiian ancestry are disproportionately
16 represented in the Hawaii State Hospital (HSH) and in our continuing support services.

1 Committed advocates with knowledge and understanding can make a big difference. It
2 may be that expanding the SCMH membership to include individuals who possess
3 demonstrated knowledge or work experience involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being,
4 culturally grounded mental health methodologies, or traditional healing or health practices
5 promotes recovery and more effective services for our consumers.

6 We look forward to the potential that members of the SCMH, under this measure, would
7 bring to the department's awareness of mental health needs in our community and how best to
8 respond. However, we are also mindful of the need for the self-determination of the SCMH to
9 be supported and will continue to uphold the ability of the SCMH to ultimately determine
10 membership.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None.

February 22, 2019

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Re: SB 193 Relating to the Composition of the State Council on Mental Health

Hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and
The Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Date: 2/26/2019

Location: Room 016

Time: 1:30 p.m.

To the Members of the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee and the
Members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) is testifying in strong support of SB 193 and urges its passage.

CNHA is aware of and takes notice of the disparate mental health data for Native Hawaiians provided by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in their research papers and data presented in support of this measure.

That data provides compelling information that Native Hawaiians suffer increased rates of suicide ideation, increased suicide attempts, and increased death by suicide amongst youth; that Native Hawaiian adults have high self assessed rates that their mental health is “not good”; and that the rate of depressive disorders amongst Native Hawaiian Kupuna is 13.4% higher than the state average. The data further suggests that Native Hawaiians underutilize existing mental health services and frequently seek therapy only after their illness has become severe, and, when they do seek therapy, often leave therapy prematurely.

Over 40 years of experience garnered from Native Hawaiian programs and approaches created under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act, the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Act, and the Native Hawaiian Charter School and Native Hawaiian language and immersion efforts demonstrates that programs created for Native Hawaiians that align with Native Hawaiian customs, language, traditions, and values are more effective in engaging and being viewed as relevant by the Native Hawaiians these programs were designed to serve. Unfortunately, despite our understanding of the advantages of such Native Hawaiian culturally based programs and approaches, there is presently a dearth of mental health programs and services for Native Hawaiians grounded in these Native Hawaiian cultural approaches.

The purpose of this bill is to address this shortage of culturally aligned mental health programs for Native Hawaiians by requiring that at least three members of the Hawaii State Council on Mental Health possess “demonstrated knowledge of or work experience involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well- being, culturally grounded mental health methodologies, or traditional healing or health practices. . .” The four subsections which follow Section 2, C, set forth the rubric that a future member of the Hawaii State

Council on Mental Health must meet in order to qualify for appointment to one of these three new council positions.

Amending the Council statute to add these three new members is a wise and effective use of resources because of the vital policy functions this Council provides to the State Department of Health. The functions of this Council to make recommendations on allocating mental health resources, on defining statewide mental health needs, in advocating for individuals with serious mental illness, in advocating for individuals with serious emotional disturbances, and in advocating for individuals with combined mental illness and substance abuse disorders are crucial functions that need better cultural alignment, especially for Native Hawaiians. (See existing Section 334-10-(c)).

We believe that a Council comprised of individuals with knowledge, training, and expertise in Native Hawaiian cultural approaches will increase the likelihood that the mental health needs of Native Hawaiians will be better identified, better addressed, and met with programs and approaches that will be better aligned with the Native Hawaiians they are designed to serve.

For these reasons, CNHA respectfully requests that SB 193 be passed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Kuhio Lewis', is positioned above the printed name.

J. Kuhio Lewis
Chief Executive Officer



February 26, 2019
1:30 pm
Conference Room 016

To: The Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Stanley Change, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Honorable Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Kaiali`i Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Paula Arcena, Executive Vice President, External Affairs

Re: SB193 Relating to the Composition of the State Council on Mental Health

AlohaCare is pleased to submit this testimony on support of SB193 which requires the State Council on Mental Health to comprise at least 3 members 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.

Over 19% of AlohaCare members are Native Hawaiians, the second largest ethnic group in our membership. AlohaCare believes that whole person health is closely aligned with the cultural, social, demographic and other attributes of an individual's life.

We support increasing access to culturally relevant mental health programs and services. Mental and physical health are fundamentally linked, therefore Native Hawaiian cultural approaches are beneficial to not just mental health, but whole person health.

AlohaCare is a Hawaii based, non-profit health plan that serves nearly 70,000 Medicaid and Dual-Special Needs Plan Medicare members. Our mission is to serve our communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating access to quality health care for all. This is accomplished with emphasis on prevention and primary care through community health centers that founded us and continue to guide us as well as with others that share our commitment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:29:17 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Testifying for Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports this bill that will require at least three members of the Hawaii State Council on Mental Health to have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. We believe that it is important that these council members have this background in order to render sound, informed decisions concerning the mental health of Native Hawaiians and others.



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Date: February 25, 2019

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Health
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair, Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice-Chair,
And members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Brent Kakesako, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)

Re: Support for SB193

Aloha Chairs Baker and Shimabukuro, Vice-Chairs Chang and Kahele, and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) supports SB193, which requires the State Council on Mental Health to comprise at least 3 members 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.

HACBED was established in 1992 as a nonprofit statewide intermediary to address social, economic, and environmental justice concerns through community-based economic development. It advances its mission with core competencies in the areas of community and organizational capacity building, community and economic development planning, and asset policy development and advocacy. HACBED has been fortunate to be of support to communities across the state, particularly Native Hawaiian communities, and has been humbled to see the critical role traditional knowledge and culture plays in the healing for not only Native Hawaiian people but also for everyone who calls Hawai'i home.

HACBED helped to lift up Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community voices in the 2013 report *Assessment and Priorities for Health & Well-Being in Native Hawaiians & Other Pacific People*. The report laid out the importance of social, cultural, emotional, and spiritual well-being to supporting overall health for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander people. Cultural practices were named as critical for general health and traditional knowledge provided key insights to enhance western medical practices for physical and mental well-being.

In 2015, HACBED released a report for the State Office of Planning and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, which compiled the voices of homestead leaders to guide economic development on or near Hawaiian homestead communities. The report, entitled *Kupaianaha*, which was so called because of the amazing vision and work being done by homestead communities, highlighted the importance of connections to create community *waimai*, or wealth. The Kupaianaha Framework, built on work done by Ho'oulu 'Āina, provides guiding questions on how holistic economic development should be grounded by connections to others, place, past and future, and self, and demonstrates the underlying importance of

culture and traditional knowledge.

These efforts are just two examples which demonstrate that Native Hawaiian communities know what they need and are working towards providing for themselves in holistic ways that are grounded in place and connected to culture when they can. SB193 similarly recognizes the expertise and knowledge of Native Hawaiian people to address mental health issues through ancestral and culturally-grounded practices. We strongly urge the passage of SB193 to ensure that decisions, in this case on mental health, can be informed by the voices and ‘ike of this place – Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director

To: Committee Chair Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Committee Vice Chair Senator Stanley Chang
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Committee Chair Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Committee Vice Chair Senator Kaiali'i Kahele
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

RE: **Support for SB 193**

The Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide public-private collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS brings together government and non-governmental organizations to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki. The Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide public-private collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners are working to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki. ECAS supports SB 193, which would require the State Council on Mental Health ("Council") to comprise of at least 3 members with demonstrated knowledge of or work experience involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being, culturally grounded mental health methodologies, or traditional health or health practices.

Data shows the Native Hawaiian community suffers from significant mental health-associated challenges, with Native Hawaiians demonstrating high rates of childhood abuse and trauma, suicidal ideation and attempts, and negative self-health assessments. Native Hawaiians also make up a high percentage of those experiencing homelessness, including many children under the age of 5, which have severe impacts on mental health and well-being. Research shows issues with mental health can adversely impact a child's educational trajectory, negatively impacts social relations, and increase risk of developing chronic diseases. In addition, Native Hawaiians have also experienced generational trauma through the loss of culture, and the treatment to address that trauma must be culture. Many Native Hawaiians facing mental health challenges find that culturally-grounded mental health programs or treatment opportunities are not consistently available or easily accessible despite the recognized potential of improvement to mental and emotional well-being.

As an advisory body to the Department of Health on the state's mental health policies and infrastructure, the Council can promote the development and implementation of culturally-grounded mental health policies that can systemically address the mental health challenges experienced by Native Hawaiian communities and promote policies to increase access to culturally-relevant treatment. For these reasons, Early Childhood Action Strategy supports this measure and encourages the Committee to support its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



SB193

RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, and Hawaiian Affairs

February 26, 2019

1:30 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB193**, a measure in OHA's 2019 Legislative Package. By ensuring that at least three members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health have a background in Native Hawaiian cultural concepts or practices relating to mental health, this bill serves as a critical stepping stone toward reducing Native Hawaiian mental health-associated disparities through targeted and systemic relief.

Unfortunately, statistics have revealed that Native Hawaiians are alarmingly overrepresented in a range of negative mental health-associated statistics. Suicide, substance abuse, self-harm, depression, chronic disease, homelessness, poverty, and incarceration are acutely present among Native Hawaiians. For example, Native Hawaiian youth suicide ideation, attempts, and deaths far outpace that of their non-Native Hawaiian peers; meanwhile, Native Hawaiian adults have the highest rates of self-reporting their physical and mental health as "not good," and the Depressive Disorder rate among Native Hawaiian kūpuna is much higher than the state average. These disparate negative mental health-associated outcomes can have a deleterious effect not only on affected individuals, but also on their families and the larger community as a whole; accordingly, targeted and systemic action must be taken to address these mental health-associated disparities, and better protect and uplift the health and vitality of the Native Hawaiian lāhui.

Reserving three seats on the Hawai'i State Mental Health Council for individuals with experience or expertise in Native Hawaiian health and healing values and practices would help to systemically promote programs and services that can most effectively target the Native Hawaiian community's mental health-associated disparities. As a body, the Hawai'i State Mental Health Council advises, monitors, reviews, and evaluates the provision of mental health services throughout the islands. Members with "knowledge of or work experience involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being, culturally-grounded mental health methodologies, or traditional healing or health practices" would not only help the Council to more consciously consider the mental health needs of the Native Hawaiian community, but also understand the unique relief that culturally grounded mental health approaches may provide for Native Hawaiians struggling with mental health challenges. Such consideration and understanding would in turn assist the

Council in ensuring greater and more consistent opportunities for Native Hawaiians and others to participate in culturally grounded programs and services that can foster positive mental health outcomes far more effectively than purely Western approaches. Accordingly, this measure serves as a critical step towards systemically addressing the Native Hawaiian community's mental health-associated disparities.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB193. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



February 25, 2019

To: Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Vice Chair Kaiaki'i Kahele
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB193**

Hrg: February 26, 2019 at 1:30pm, Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) **supports SB193**, which requires the State Council on Mental Health to include at least 3 members with knowledge of or work experience involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being, culturally grounded mental health methodologies, or traditional healing or health practices. Native Hawaiians are disproportionately impacted by mental health concerns and the repercussion of these concerns on families and communities. It is important that State Council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health and may attenuate or exacerbate disparities in suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

Promoting Native Hawaiian traditional practices, values, and beliefs builds resilience in individuals, families, and communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state and addressing significant mental health and mental health care disparities. We urge the committee to **PASS** this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Townsend Ing', is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH
Legislative Committee Chair



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lokahi

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

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.

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
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IN SUPPORT
**SB 193 - RELATING TO COMPOSITION OF THE
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH**

Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 1:30 PM
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Greetings of aloha to the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and members of the committees.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board authorized by the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (Title 42 USC 122), is IN SUPPORT of this bill, which requires at least three members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health have intimate community experience with Hawaiian concepts of well-being, traditional healing or cultural practices, or a culturally grounded behavioral health practice or methodologies.

Native Hawaiians are overrepresented in rates of tobacco and alcohol use and substance abuse; overrepresented in rates of suicide, particularly on the Neighbor Islands, and suicide ideation; overrepresented in the courts, jails and prisons; and bear higher rates of depression and certain mental illnesses.

Among our practices throughout the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, we know that for Hawaiians who want care to seek it, we must develop services and treatments that are available, accessible, affordable, appropriate, and most of all, acceptable. It is critical that there is significant understanding on the State Council on Mental Health of the traumas and other issues impacting Native Hawaiians, and familiarity with the factors of resilience, culture and spirituality that can be incorporated into treatments and services that lead to successful outcomes.

We urge the passage of SB 193. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 3:13:27 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
david derauf	Testifying for Kokua Kalihi Valley	Support	No

Comments:

SB193 Referring to State Council on Mental Health

State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices

KKV strongly SUPPORTs SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." We believe that it is important that these council members have a deep understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health. Our work shows us many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals and their communities.

I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 9:23:12 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Lum	Testifying for Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this important measure. My name is Kehaulani Lum, and I am the President of the Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club, which was chartered in 1973 to promote and preserve Native Hawaiian culture, education, health and well-being.

We strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for your support.

Me ke Aloha nui loa,

Kehaulani Lum

Colette Y. Machado
Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Jacqueline Noa-Cameron

Next Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

In support of Senate Bill 193 Relating to the Composition of the State Council on Mental Health

Aloha,

My name is Jacqueline Noa-Cameron and I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am currently working on my Master's degree in Social Work with a concentration in Behavioral Mental Health. Today, I will be testifying in support of Senate Bill 193 (Companion Bill HB 174).

Throughout the years, Native Hawaiians have been aggressively working towards sustaining our culture as well as our language. Many efforts and programs have been brought forth just to educate the community and ensure that the hard work of our Kupuna's did not go to unnoticed. One of the most admirable traits that our culture is known for is showing aloha. We take care of our land and the people that reside/visits our islands. By doing this, we tend to forget about our own well-being and by the time we realize that we need to take care of ourselves, its often too late.

By passing Senate Bill 193 (HB 174), we are able to take this step forward in not only addressing Native Hawaiian's mental health, but the health of our culture and our cultural practices. Various researchers have concluded that teens and adolescent's often have an increased chance of entering a correctional facility, due to crimes that they commit. As researchers dug deeper, it was proven that a majority of these individuals committed these crimes due to seeking attention that they did not receive within their home. A great amount of these individuals lacked the "ideal family" household of being raised by both parents. This had led them to feeling like they did not belong and that they had no foundation.

The implementation of this Bill will provide an opportunity for children and adolescents to seek their foundation through their Native Hawaiian culture. It will continue the works of our Kupuna's and address the importance of mental health, breaking the negative stigma that is correlated alongside this issue. For these reasons, I stand in full support of Senate Bill 193 Relating to the Composition of the State Council on Mental Health.



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016 State Capitol

RE: SB 193 Relating to the Composition of the State Council on Mental Health

To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; the Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair; the Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair; the Honorable Kaiali`i Kahele, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, and Hawaiian Affairs:

I am Melodie Aduja, Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i ("DPH"). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on SB 193. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities ("OCCLP") hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 193, Relating to the Composition of the State Council on Mental Health.**

The purpose of SB 193 is to require at least three members of the state council on mental health to be 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.

Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai`i and deserve a just relationship with the State and Federal Governments. We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture. We support the efforts of Native Hawaiians to pursue self-determination. We also support their right to pursue the international rights of Native Hawaiian people.

We acknowledge the past injustices and the misguided, harmful Federal and State policies and actions based on outdated and discredited values and beliefs that resulted in the destruction of the Hawaiian Nation's economies, social, and religious systems, the taking of their lands, and the creation of intergenerational trauma that exists to this day. We believe that we have a moral and profound duty to honor, respect, and uphold our sacred obligation to the Hawaiian Nation State and the Hawaiian people. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 15, ln. 32-42.*

DPH believes that we must treat mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical health, support a robust mental health workforce, and promote better integration of the behavioral and general health care systems. Recognizing that maintaining good mental health is critical to all people, including young people's health and development, DPH will work with health professionals to ensure that all children have access to mental health care. We must also expand community-based treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental health condition and fully enforce our parity law. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 12, ln. 20-25.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to expand community-based treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental health conditions and to support the growth of Native Hawaiian healing practices as the result of destruction of the Hawaiian Nation's economies, social, and religious systems, the taking of their lands, and the creation of intergenerational trauma, OCCLP supports SB 193 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, and Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

RE: SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health
Tuesday, February 26, 2019

1:30pm

Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

*State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices

My name is Katharine Wear. I am a graduate student of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work specializing in Behavioral Mental Health. I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices."

I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities.

I currently work with majority Native Hawaiian men and women transitioning out of prison or awaiting sentencing as mental health support and substance use support. From this experience, it is clear to me that mental health interventions with Native Hawaiian focus could help to break cycles of unnecessary suffering in individuals, families and within the community. To work towards this goal, there should be at least (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health who are well versed in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state, which is so greatly deserved. I urge the committee to PASS SB193.

Sincerely,

Katharine Wear, MSW Candidate
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
1341 Highview Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96816

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 9:26:43 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB193 requiring that at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." The expansion of this council's membership would allow more fully-informed decision making and enable our state officials to better address mental health in Hawai'i. Intentionally appointing individuals with Native Hawaiian expertise will ensure there are targeted strategies for mental health recommendations and planning. Council members providing advisement on culture-based health services will positively address psychosocial and sociocultural stressors associated with mental illness among Native Hawaiians. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS SB193

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 10:18:51 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to STRONGLY SUPPORT SB193, which would help the State Mental Health Council explore and promote holistic and culturally grounded mental health services and programs.

Mental health challenges arguably underly so many of the broader socioeconomic issues our islands are struggling with, and too often directly result in unnecessary pain and suffering for individuals as well as their families and communities.

This measure represents a small but critically necessary step towards systemically evolving our mental health infrastructure, through the exploration, promotion, and adoption of culturally-grounded programming that holistically considers the various factors contributing to our individual and collective mental and physical well-being.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS SB193. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Wayne Tanaka

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 12:01:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill which will help the State Mental Health Council explore and promote holistic and culturally grounded mental health services and programs.

As we personally witness, hear anecdotally and see on our island streets and in our communities mental health challenges arguably underly so many of the broader socioeconomic issues our islands struggle with, and too often directly result in unnecessary pain and suffering for individuals as well as their families and communities.

This measure represents a small but critically necessary step towards systemically evolving our mental health infrastructure, through the exploration, promotion, and adoption of culturally-grounded policies and programs that holistically consider the various factors contributing to our individual and collective mental and physical well-being.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS SB193.

Aloha

Kevin

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 3:26:09 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna K Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a Native Hawaiian from the island of Kaua`i and I SUPPORT SB193. I do believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions would affect Native Hawaiians mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, and other psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

This bill takes a positive step in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,

Donna K. Santos

Island of Kaua`i

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 7:33:57 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jen Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 9:14:37 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn K. Sang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kā• ko'o au i kā"ia pila no ka mea i ko'u mana'o inĀ• e ho'okahua 'ia mea a pau ma luna o ke kuana'ike Hawai'i, e ola ana nĀ• ka 'Ā• ina pela pĀ« me ke kanaka.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 9:55:30 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olu Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I write in **SUPPORT** of SB193, which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." Poor mental health is an important issue, disproportionately impacting the Native Hawaiian community. As such, I believe the Council must have an understanding of how their decisions impact Native Hawaiians. Having members on the Council with knowledge of traditional and customary practices will ensure the mental health of Native Hawaiians is considered in decision-making and that traditional values and practices that may assist in addressing these issues are incorporated. I urge the committee to **PASS** this bill.

Mahalo,

'Olu Campbell

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 1:39:32 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 8:24:08 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annie H. Nguyen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB193

SB193, which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." It is important that these council members have understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. In Hawai'i, Native Hawaiians experience one of the poorest mental health statuses. There are existing programs in our communities led by experts in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. They have shown promising results in improving mental health, increasing family and community connectedness, and building resilience. Council members with Native Hawaiian expertise have the ability to identify, develop, or implement programs and services that are culturally appropriate for Native Hawaiians.

This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state and will increase the diversity of the council which will ultimately benefit everyone in our communities. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 11:34:42 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Skjold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 24, 2019

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 1:30 p.m. Room 016

SUPPORT: SB193 RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write testimony to SUPORRT SB193 relating to the composition of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health.

Native Hawaiians are actively learning, training, working, and teaching in the fields of psychology, social work, public health, nursing, Hawaiian studies, health administration, medicine, with a focus on Native Hawaiian health, transgenerational trauma, or traditional healing or health practices such as ho'oponopono, lā'au lapa'au, or lomilomi. As a Nutrition and Dietetics student studying Native Hawaiian health, I understand that the expansion of this council's membership is integral to my future career as a public health leader. Council members with Native Hawaiian expertise have the ability to set the foundation for us up-and-coming health practitioners that are interested and dedicated to culture-based health services that positively impact mental health among Native Hawaiians. **The next generation of Native Hawaiian health leaders comprehend the urgent need to promote community-centric and culturally-integrated mental health policies for Native Hawaiians.**

As a student of Nutrition and Dietetics, my education and experience has taught me that knowledge of or involvement in Native Hawaiian and indigenous health, transgenerational trauma, or traditional healing or health practices provide substantial gains in the health and healing fields every day in Hawai'i and for indigenous people around the world.

I urge the committee to PASS SB193 as a way for clinical, place-based, and holistic services that provide or integrate culture-based health services throughout Hawai'i to be part of the advertisement, monitoring, reviews, and evaluation spectrum performed by The Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health. Generally, the same factors that increase the risk of mental illness in otherwise healthy Native Hawaiians also raise the risk in Native Hawaiians experiencing chronic disease. These risk factors include personal or family history, environmental factors, stressful life conditions, lack of social support and poor access to high quality prevention and intervention services like screening. Native Hawaiians are among the hardest hit by chronic conditions, resulting in our State's first people ranking last in many health indicators like obesity, asthma, cancers, cardiovascular disease and Type II Diabetes. For example, 45.6% of Native Hawaiian adults are obese and nearly 75% of Native Hawaiians are at risk for becoming obese which has enormous fiscal, mental, and human costs to Hawai'i. Research shows depression and anxiety can both be associated with overeating, poor food choices, and a more sedentary lifestyle. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over time, weight gain may eventually lead to obesity. To that end, about 43% of adults with depression are obese.

Requiring three members with this expertise has the potential for improved health outcomes through culturally grounded approaches that are congruent with Native Hawaiian mental health need.

Implementing policy that allows state agencies to address mental health more holistically simply makes our approach to health and social services more efficient, and benefits our entire population of Hawai'i. This bill is motivating for me as an emerging Native Hawaiian health leader.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT SB193 relating to the composition of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health. I urge you to PASS this bill.

Respectfully,

Christina Young

From: [Ke"ala"ilahi Ford](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Friday, February 22, 2019 1:36:00 PM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Robin Miyamoto](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Friday, February 22, 2019 12:49:15 PM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health

State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Robin Miyamoto

From: [pat_pat](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Friday, February 22, 2019 2:46:23 PM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Aloha Chairs Baker and Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs and Committee members,

SB193 Comments for Consideration

Thank you for hearing this bill. I appreciate the general intent and offer comments for your consideration. This bill addresses the needs of our keiki, kupuna and those struggling with addictions. There is remarkable ongoing work being done for ensuring these groups have a voice and currently Hawai'i has 4 or more programs in place, which include the Department of Education Office of Hawaiian Education, the Executive Office of Aging, the Hawaii Commission on the Status of Women and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. This bill may duplicate efforts, have the unintended consequence of weakening current initiatives and divert valuable resources from the work already happening. As a member of the State Council on Mental Health and the Oahu Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, I ask you to defer this bill for further discussion that would include the ongoing work of these four programs. Your consideration of my comments is appreciated. I have included information from several of these programs websites. Mahalo.

Cindi Dang, Psy.D.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING (EOA)

The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) is the designated lead agency in the coordination of a statewide system of aging and caregiver support services in the State of Hawaii, as authorized by federal and state laws. The federal Older Americans Act establishes an Aging Network and provides federal funding for elderly support services, nutrition services, preventive health services, elder rights protection, and family caregiver support services. Chapter 349 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes establishes the Executive Office on Aging as the focal point for all matters relating to older adults' needs and the coordination and development of caregiver support services within the State of Hawaii.

About the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women was created by executive order on May 15, 1964 to function as a central clearinghouse of resources, services and advocacy for women and girls. The Commission was established to assist in legislative advocacy and implementation, to develop programs for women and girls, and to serve as an informational resource for Hawaii's women and girls on a broad range of policies and issues.

ABOUT THE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE DIVISION

“Providing the leadership necessary for the development and delivery of quality substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services for the residents of the State of Hawaii.” The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) is the primary and often sole source of public funds for substance abuse treatment. ADAD's treatment efforts are designed to promote a statewide culturally appropriate, comprehensive system of services to meet the treatment and recovery needs of individuals and families. Treatment services have, as a requirement, priority admission for pregnant women and injection drug users.

:: Leanne Fox ::

February 26, 2019

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 1:30 p.m. Room 016
SUPPORT: SB193 RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

Aloha,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write testimony to SUPPORT SB193 relating to the composition of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health. Here in our own homeland, Native Hawaiians are among the hardest hit by social determinants of health, resulting in our state's first people ranking last in many wellness indicators, including their mental health. I agree with this bill— there is an urgent need to promote community-centric and culturally-integrated mental health policies for Native Hawaiians.

Today, Native Hawaiian communities and 'ohana are born into and are raised along a backdrop of historical, social, and political trauma. Specifically, land alienation, language shift, ethnocide, cultural appropriation, cultural devaluation, population decline, and economic disadvantage, among others. Although historical, these past occurrences presently influence, inform, and situate the experiences, success, and well-being of Native Hawaiians across a wide array of mental health determinants.

The state's current approaches and programs to improve mental health lack cultural-based knowledge and traditional methods that are informed and competent for Native Hawaiians. This has led to significant negative mental health impacts on the emotional well-being of Native Hawaiians. As a result, Native Hawaiians have high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. Alarming, 'ōpio/youth, experience high rates of suicide consideration, attempts, and death because of their mental health needs going unmet. Therefore, the promotion and integration of cultural traditions and sacred places, access to lands, a strong indigenous identity, and cultural participation are necessary for Native Hawaiian mental health stability and success for long-term improvements to be accomplished.

This bill ensures that at least three members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health will have a sufficient background to provide input on expertise on cultural practices, values, and mental health issues relating to Native Hawaiian risk factors. Requiring three members with this expertise has the potential for improved health outcomes through culturally grounded approaches that are congruent with Native Hawaiian mental health needs. Implementing policy that allows state agencies to address mental health more holistically simply makes our approach to health and social services more efficient, and benefits our entire population of Hawai'i. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT SB193 relating to the composition of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health.

I urge the committee to **PASS SB193**.
Respectfully,

Leanne Fox

Letter of Support for SB193

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:55:53 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Keaulana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Hawaiian Affairs
Committee Members,

I strongly SUPPORT SB 193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices."

As a public health doctoral student and a committed member to our Native Hawaiian community, I know that Native Hawaiians experience one of the poorest mental health status in Hawai'i. Fortunately, our communities in Hawai'i have recognized this and have already implemented culturally-based programs that improve the mental health of individuals and built family connectedness and community resilience. Likewise, public health professionals across the nation and in many Indigenous communities have found that traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs increase participation in health programming and education and have been successful in areas of substance abuse and mental health.

With the overall goal of public health being to prevent disease and promote health, we must provide care that is appropriate for our unique populations here in our island home. Requiring three members of expertise in Native Hawaiian and customary practices is important for myself and my colleagues as Native Hawaiian, future public health leaders and professionals as we aim to implement culturally-based approaches to improve mental health, physical health, social health, and spiritual health. I believe these three members will recognize the importance of culturally informed services and programs, so I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Samantha Keaulana

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:53:46 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marta greenleaf	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

"Mahalo nui for the opportunity to STRONGLY SUPPORT SB193, which would help the State Mental Health Council explore and promote holistic and culturally grounded mental health services and programs.

Mental health challenges arguably underly so many of the broader socioeconomic issues our islands struggle with, and too often directly result in unnecessary pain and suffering for individuals as well as their families and communities.

This measure represents a small but critically necessary step towards systemically evolving our mental health infrastructure, through the exploration, promotion, and adoption of culturally-grounded policies and programs that holistically consider the various factors contributing to our individual and collective mental and physical well-being.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS SB193. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure."

Sincerely,

Marta Greenleaf

310 Hoopalua Dr

Makawao, HI 96768

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:58:34 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamaile Maldonado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this measure to allow greater recognition of and investment in the unique ways that culturally based healing modalities can impact the suffering health and well-being of Native Hawaiian individuals and families. Mahalo.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:33:05 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Werner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kamuela Werner. I strongly support SB193.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner, MPH

Wai'anae Resident

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:39:11 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makaala Kaaumoana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Since the 2018 flood events on Kauai, it is clear that mental health concerns and services for Hawaiian residents would be better received and effective if those services were provided in a culturally appropriate fashion. We have experienced the need for this legislation.

From: -
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Friday, February 22, 2019 3:35:27 PM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Cordially,

Earl S.Tenn (P Mai)

From: [Erica Scott](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Saturday, February 23, 2019 1:39:52 PM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Joseph Kohn MD](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Saturday, February 23, 2019 1:00:10 PM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Joseph Kohn MD
Founder, We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO
493 Pio Dr Apt 209
Wailuku, HI 96793-2641
808-359-6605
Joseph@WeAreOne.cc
www.WeAreOne.cc

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:19:06 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health to “have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.” I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state’s commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:34:57 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faylene Mahina Duarte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health

State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices

Aloha,

I served on the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force and I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:01:08 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lani Eugenio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

More than 10 of my sons' classmates/acquaintances committed suicide. All males, majority Native Hawaiians. Our town has a big drug problem, again, mostly NH males/ females. I participated in our traditional counseling method. I know it works. It's a strict mediation process that includes all involved, unlike Western methods where the patient confides in a Counselor (virtually a STRANGER) who is privy to this info and can't/won't share this with the family or people involved (privacy act). I KNOW Ho'oponopono works. A loving spirit prevails. It took one session. I cried for 3 days. It was healing. And that's what our people need.ĩ»¿

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:43:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health

State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices

I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sarah Huffstetler

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Health

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kaiali'I Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Ryan Ramsey
731 Nunu St.
Kailua, HI 96734

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2019

Support for S.B. No. 193, Relating to State Council on Mental Health

I am a Master's of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii Manoa, and am currently working as residential counselor at a Substance Use Disorder treatment facility. I strongly support S.B. No. 193, Relating to State Council on Mental Health, which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

There are many powerful examples, some of which my clients and myself I have had the honor to take part in, where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Ryan Ramsey
731 Nunu St.
Kailua, HI 96734
214-454-9548

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:28:07 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kai Derrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:34:44 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie K Akana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

As a parent with a teen son who suffers from severe depression and social anxiety, I know first hand that the options for medical assistance are very few. He has NO Native Hawaiian healers available to him who understand who he is as a Kanaka teen. I see doctors too quick to prescribe medications that they "think" will help. The mental health remedy has been a "try this and wait and see how it works" style of prescribing medications and talk therapy. None of these things address the spiritual basis of depression at the subconscious level where the root of all illness resides. Until Native Hawaiian mental health practitioners are available on a mass scale to people who need it, suicide rates and mental health issues will plague the people of Hawaii.

There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo - Laurie K Akana

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:11:00 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:54:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaeleen K. Martinez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health

State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices

I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health to “have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.” I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state’s commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 3:43:14 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM



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

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:53:54 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Oshiro-Taogoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Susan Oshiro-Taogoshi and I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." As the mother, of a Native Hawaiian child with mental and physical challenges, I believe it is VITAL that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions will directly affect the lives of Native Hawaiians and their high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.

Mahalo,

Susan Oshiro-Taogoshi

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:47:36 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Garnier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I AM IN SUPPORT OF SB193

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo nui loa,

Rain

Lorraine Garnier



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®



Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Date: Peleluali 26, 2019

Where: Capitol Room 415

TESTIMONY

Submitted by the listed organizations



RE: **SB 193, Relating to Suicide Prevention**

E ka Luna Ho‘omalu Baker, ka Luna Ho‘omalu Shimabukuro, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Chang, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Kahele, a me nā Lālā o kēia mau Kōmike o ka ‘Aha Kenekoa, aloha! The listed organizations write in **SUPPORT** of SB 193, which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health to have demonstrated knowledge or experience with Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being, mental health, or healing practices.

As Native Hawaiian serving organizations, we understand the impact poor mental health has on our community and believe it is important for members of the Council to understand how their decisions affect Native Hawaiians. By placing members on the Council with the skills and experience listed in SB 193, the mental health of Native Hawaiians can be better considered, along with more culturally relevant and impactful solutions.

With this testimony, our organizations collectively submit our **SUPPORT** of SB 193 and urge this Committee to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 6:33:13 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Henohea Linker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 25, 2019

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health /
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE

Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 193

Aloha Chairs Rosalyn H. Baker and Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs Stanley Chang and Kaiali'i Kahele, and fellow committee members,

My name is Brandon Calvo Fejeran and I am an MSW candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, which sets itself apart from other social work schools nationally and prides itself in its unique and *necessary* emphasis on decolonizing professional practice. I am in strong Support for Senate Bill 193, which will require that at least three members appointed to the State Council on Mental Health have some “demonstrated knowledge of or work experience involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being, culturally grounded mental health methodologies, [and/]or traditional healing or health practices.” Considering the overwhelming number of Native Hawaiians whose health and mental health statuses have been grossly affected by various issues such as homelessness, domestic violence, and substance abuse, to ensure the placement of several council members whose backgrounds include what might be viewed as non-Westernized approaches toward betterment of an individual's mental health—specifically those of Native Hawaiian descent who desire to connect with their roots and/or those who adhere to traditional value systems and practices of the host land—is not only culturally sensitive but also responsible. This is of course while also ensuring that certain “standards of care” be upheld.

I come from two of the five unincorporated territories of the United States. As a son of the Marianas (of which the indigenous people are the Chamorros) specifically of the islands of Guåhan (or Guam, the southernmost of the Mariana Island chain) and Sa'ipan (or Saipan, of the CNMI, or Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), to remember where I came from in all facets have and continue to be key towards my own well-being in terms of overall health / mental health.

Hawai'i has been home for over a decade now and, with absolute respect and admiration for the host culture, as is the case where I come from, the statistics corroborate those who identify as Native Hawaiian as a hurting group in their own land. One can suggest that Native Hawaiians and *all* who have adopted Hawai'i as their home can benefit from culturally sensitive Health and Mental Health services that might heal and edify through more traditional approaches that do not always align with Western interventions. I certainly am more at ease when more traditional adaptations to Westernized models of health / mental health are utilized in my beloved Marianas—specifically, the acknowledgment that the inclusion of Chamorro practices and value systems have some degree of validity and can enhance mental health programs and in turn individuals seeking

to better themselves and/or whole communities looking to improve their collective condition. I endorse such inclusions to adjust to the locales to which they are incorporated.

In terms of Hawai'i, to inject cultural considerations into these programs will ensure all grounds covered for Native Hawaiian kupuna, keiki, and everyone in between, in addition to those who have adopted the host culture's methodologies toward health, specifically the acknowledgment that the spiritual component as well as one's connection to the 'aina are integral aspects of a person's mental health . . . and health in general.

Essentially, the enactment of SB 193 will proffer the automatic shoe-in of three members who are versed in Native Hawaiian health concepts and practices, who will be proponents toward these measures toward health and/or mental health, which will afford a more holistic approach that uplifts indigenous ways of knowing and potentiates treatment or care of the *whole* self.

Further, through this inclusion of not just one but at least three council members appointed for the State council on mental health, they can act as cultural advisors of sorts. There will be a better consensus and a checks-and-balances system in terms of the benefits of these interventions for those receiving these services. Cumulatively, there will be a more grounded, nurturing atmosphere for MH patients and a broader pool in terms of strategies toward their betterment from whose waters behavioral health specialists and coordinators can increasingly, sensitively, and more confidently draw.

Mahalo lui noa for this opportunity to testify.

Brandon Calvo Fejeran
MSW Candidate
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:43:34 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:37:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brytni K-aloha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB193 requiring that at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." The expansion of this council's membership would allow more fully-informed decision making and enable our state officials to better address mental health in Hawai'i. Intentionally appointing individuals with Native Hawaiian expertise will ensure there are targeted strategies for mental health recommendations and planning. Council members providing advisement on culture-based health services will positively address psychosocial and sociocultural stressors associated with mental illness among Native Hawaiians. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS SB193.

From: [Kilia Purdy-Avelino](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 5:23:36 AM



Aloha mai,

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

na' u me ka ha'aha'a,
na Kilia Purdy-Avelino
Molokai Homestead Leader; Hawaiian Language/Hawaiian Studies Educator

From: [Mona Daniels](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: strongly support sb193 native hawaiian mental health bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 9:04:37 PM



sb 193 relating to state council on mental health state council on mental health: requires that 3 members of council have a background in native hawaiian health practices i strongly support sb193 which will require at least three (3) members of the hawai'i state council on mental health to "have demonstrated expertise in native hawaiian traditional and customary practices." i believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect native hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. there are many powerful examples where native hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. this bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to native hawaiians across the state. i urge the committee to pass this bill.

Sent via the AT&T TREK™ 2 HD a 4G LTE tablet

From: [Scott King](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#); OptinCalPERS@calpers.ca.gov; [Eat This Not That](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:10:06 PM

LATE

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Kang, Brandon S.](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 4:18:29 PM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Donna Dedrick](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:29:59 AM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Erica Scott](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 12:31:49 PM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [James mauhili](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 2:33:30 PM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy , an AT&T LTE smartphone

From: [Kapono S.](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:32:36 AM



Aloha,

My name is Kapono Aluli Souza and as a Native Hawaiian I want to submit my support for SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.



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From: [Kapono S.](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:32:36 AM



Aloha,

My name is Kapono Aluli Souza and as a Native Hawaiian I want to submit my support for SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.



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From: [Scott King](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:05:23 PM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.



[ereference_87253.pdf](#)

From: [Kalani Quiocho](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 10:04:34 PM



Aloha,

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Kalani Quiocho

98-142 Lipoa Place Apt. 101
'Aiea, Hawai'i 96701

From: [Keala Campbell](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 5:38:38 PM

LATE

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health to “have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.” I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state’s commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Me ka ha’aha’a,
Keala B Campbell
Native Hawaiian Law Student

From: [Makanalani Gomes](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 12:18:29 AM

LATE

Aloha,

My name is Makanalani Gomes. I strongly support SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health to “have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.” I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state’s commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo Piha!

From: [Kristy Lam](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 5:24:42 PM

To whom it may concern,

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices.

I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Aloha no,
Kristy Lam

From: [Varna Nakihei](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:55:10 AM

LATE

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [pat_pat](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:56:56 AM

LATE

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Kathy Giffard](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:39:41 AM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Kimi Kihoi](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:31:37 AM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Kimi Kihoi

From: [Lama Chang](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 4:29:25 PM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health to “have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.” I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state’s commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Suresh Tamang](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 3:08:39 PM

LATE

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Suresh Tamang, PhD

From: [Namaka Rawlins](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 2:12:46 PM

LATE

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo nui!

From: [Midgieann L. Wright](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 3:05:15 PM

LATE

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Mark Kalahela](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 3:56:31 PM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawaii State Council on Mental Health to have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mark R. Kalahela

LATE

From: [Makaala Kaaumoana](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:30:05 AM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Melissa Leilani Devencenzi](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 11:27:31 AM

LATE

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Julie](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 5:55:20 PM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Juliette (Kaulia) Johnston
jpkj57@aol.com

From: [Lei Kihoi Dunne](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 12:21:47 PM



Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

I am in strong SUPPORT OF SB193.

As a trained therapist, and licensed attorney, I have worked in the Judicial system, Social Services (CPS), and the Public Safety (Prison), and find that there are a number of mental health issues among our NativeHawaiian populous.

Therefore, I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities.

This Bill reaffirms the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Aloha,

Lei Kihoi, Esq, MSW

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 8:21:14 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxane Stewart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 8:19:33 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katey Peck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB193, requiring that at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." As a public health student, I am committed to the prevention of disease and promotion of health, which includes achieving the best health for everyone in our society.

Since the 1950's, Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian experts in mental and behavioral health have documented the risks of Native Hawaiian acculturation and assimilation which disregard the promotion and use of Hawaiian culture, practices, values and beliefs. Mental health is a serious problem that disproportionately impacts the Native Hawaiian community on all islands, from keiki to kāpuna. It is linked to suicide, substance use, partner violence, homelessness, incarceration, and numerous issues of community concern. This is of major concern to me as a future public health practitioner who aims to decrease inequities.

Fortunately, our communities in Hawai'i have recognized these challenges and have already implemented culturally-based programs that improve the mental health of individuals and build family connectedness and community resilience. Likewise, public health professionals across the nation and in many Indigenous communities have found that traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs increase participation in health programming and education and have been successful in areas of substance abuse and mental health.

Council members with Native Hawaiian expertise will have the ability to identify, develop, and implement programs and services that are culturally appropriate for Native Hawaiians. Bringing these three members to the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health will provide a positive step forward to advocate for Native Hawaiian mental health needs. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB193.

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 9:11:52 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

In April 2017, I was inevitably released after being incarcerated for 20 yrs (robbery and weapons charges) and the psychological issues (depression) that accompanies such a sentence is unbearable. Twenty-two months after my release, I am still dealing with depression that affects me in more ways than one. The modern practice of today offers a prescribed medication that I refuse to partake of due to its known side effects and susceptibility for addiction. However, Senate Bill 193 (SB193), offers a glimmer of hope and an alternative to address the core issues that underlies the retrogressive conditions that affects a high percentage of Native Hawaiians, just like me.

Oddly enough, it was during my incarceration that I was able to experience first hand where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs were implemented and the results were empowering. For the past 18 months I have been enrolled in college pursuing an Associates degree, and I haven't looked back since.

Certainly, SB193 is a positive step in moving forward to reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state and abroad. Thus, I adamantly support SB193 - Relating to the State Council on Mental Health, and I firmly believe that it is relevant and critical to the Native Hawaiian community that the council members have an objective view and understanding on how their decisions will impact Native Hawaiian mental health that is related to the high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses, and a myriad of other issues. This disparity is troubling, but with the passage of SB193, the chances for improvement of the foregoing issues would surely benefit everyone.

Therefore, I humbly urge this committee to PASS Senate Bill 193 relating to the State Council on Mental Health that requires a minimum of three (3) members of council to have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to submit this testimony,

-Kapela-

From: [Kahea Peleras](#)
To: HWNtestimony@capitol.gov; [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:51:35 AM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health to “have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.” I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state’s commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Kahealani Peleras

From: [Stephanie Hedani](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#); [HWNTestimony](#)
Subject: Re: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019 10:30:58 PM



Aloha mai kakou,

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health:
Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices
I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i
State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian
traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council
members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental
health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse,
school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses.
There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary
practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their
communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment
to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Stephanie

--

Stephanie Helelani Hedani
Native Hawaiian Student Counselor
University of Hawai'i Maui College
310 W. Ka'ahumanu Ave
Kahului, HI 96732

To make an appointment, please call 808-984-3306

Fax: 808-984-3872
E-mail: shrabago@hawaii.edu
Visit <http://maui.hawaii.edu/counseling-advising/>

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--

Stephanie Helelani Hedani
Native Hawaiian Student Counselor
University of Hawai'i Maui College
310 W. Ka'ahumanu Ave
Kahului, HI 96732

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use, dissemination, copying, or storage of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited.

From: [Kahea Peleras](#)
To: HWNtestimony@capitol.gov; [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:51:35 AM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health to “have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.” I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state’s commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Kahealani Peleras

LATE

From: [Kahea Peleras](#)
To: HWNtestimony@capitol.gov; [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:51:35 AM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Kahealani Peleras

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 10:15:19 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM



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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB193, which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." As a public health doctoral student and a committed member to our Native Hawaiian community, I know that Native Hawaiians experience one of the poorest mental health status in Hawai'i. Fortunately, our communities in Hawai'i have recognized this and have already implemented culturally-based programs that improve the mental health of individuals and built family connectedness and community resilience. Likewise, public health professionals across the nation and in many Indigenous communities have found that traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs increase participation in health programming and education and have been successful in areas of substance abuse and mental health.

With the overall goal of public health being to prevent disease and promote health, we must provide care that is appropriate for our unique populations here in our island home. Requiring three members of expertise in Native Hawaiian and customary practices is important for myself and my colleagues as Native Hawaiian, future public health leaders and professionals as we aim to implement culturally-based approaches to improve mental health, physical health, social health, and spiritual health. I believe these three members will recognize the importance of culturally informed services and programs, so I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Kahea Peleras](#)
To: HWNtestimony@capitol.gov; [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:51:35 AM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Kahealani Peleras

From: [Kelley L. Uyeoka](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 10:44:57 AM



SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Kelley L. Uyeoka

LATE

From: [Kahea Peleras](#)
To: HWNtestimony@capitol.gov; [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:51:35 AM

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Mahalo,
Kahealani Peleras

From: [Amelia Borofsky](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 9:40:06 AM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

LATE

From: [Blane Benevedes](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 10:33:08 AM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to "have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices." I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state's commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

From: [Kahea Peleras](#)
To: HWNtestimony@capitol.gov; [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:51:35 AM

SB 193 Relating to State Council on Mental Health State Council on Mental Health: Requires that 3 members of council have a background in Native Hawaiian health practices I strongly SUPPORT SB193 which will require at least three (3) members of the Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health to “have demonstrated expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.” I believe that it is important that these council members have an understanding about how their decisions affect Native Hawaiian mental health related to high rates of suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, incarceration, child abuse, school adjustment problems, and certain psychological and psychiatric mental illnesses. There are many powerful examples where Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, values, and beliefs build resilience in individuals, their networks, and their communities. This bill takes a positive step forward in reaffirming the state’s commitment to Native Hawaiians across the state. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Mahalo,
Kahealani Peleras

LATE

From: [Kelley L. Uyeoka](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#); [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strongly Support SB193 Native Hawaiian Mental Health Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 10:44:57 AM

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Mahalo,
Kelley L. Uyeoka



LATE

26 February 2019

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 1:30 p.m. Room 016
SUPPORT: SB193 RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

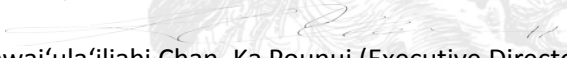
Aloha Chair Baker, Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

As the Executive Director of ‘Aha Kāne Foundation for the Advancement of Native Hawaiian Males, thank you for this opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB193 relating to the composition of the Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health.

Addressing Native Hawaiian mental health needs through culturally informed services and programs is a valuable perspective in Hawai‘i. ‘Aha Kāne Foundation for the Advancement of Native Hawaiian Males knows this first hand through the programs we run statewide on Hawai‘i, Maui, Moloka‘i, O‘ahu, and Kaua‘i. Native Hawaiian communities and ‘ohana experience intergenerational trauma, however our programs have taken that devastating history and experience of our people and have modeled ingenuity and positive self-identity of ancestral Hawaiian knowledge. In our projects, we demonstrate cultural excellence as a critical intervention tool outside of the typical clinic, hospital or treatment settings. We are actively rebuilding a greater sense of purpose within our participants while creating a healthier Hawai‘i.

I urge the committee to PASS SB193 as a way for The Hawai‘i State Council on Mental Health to recognize ancient Hawaiian knowledge of traditional and customary practitioners in healing treatments, techniques, services, or practices among Native Hawaiians. Kānaka ‘Ōiwi have strong beliefs regarding mana: that our philosophies and knowledge of health are based on intergenerational, scientific ‘ike, that consider holistic variables and have been time tested. This traditional wisdom is passed on through lineages rooted in kāhuna practices and ‘ike. Mana plays a large role in maui ola, which is the culmination of mana, pono, and lōkahi of one’s holistic well-being (spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical). Traditional Kānaka ‘Ōiwi knowledge of ola (life, health, well-being, livelihood) is perpetuated through oral teaching and decades of intensive training with healing experts. Traditional healing modalities such as ho‘oponopono, lomilomi, and lā‘au lapa‘au are but a few practices that are able to provide effective, culturally-based, high quality care to Kānaka ‘Ōiwi. These customary practices offer deep healing benefits to alleviate mental health distress from cultural disconnect and historical trauma. Additionally, the importance of spiritual reconnections to kūpuna, mo‘opuna, ‘āina, akua, and ‘ohana further maintain ola in present day. These traditional forms of healing are necessary to properly address the many health disparities Kānaka ‘Ōiwi continue to face. They are based and founded on centuries of evidence-based analyses and observations and entirely relevant to addressing the mental health of Native Hawaiians in present day. I urge the committee to PASS this bill.

Me ke aloha,


Keola Kawai‘ula‘iliahi Chan, Ka Pounui (Executive Director)
‘Aha Kāne Foundation for the Advancement of Native Hawaiian Men

SB-193

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 9:11:52 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/26/2019 1:30:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Palacat-Nelsen	Testifying for Assoc. of Hawaiian Civic Clubs - Hawaii Council	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members,

Mental Health awareness and support continues to increase in every aspect of community. The importance of supporting Native Hawaiian methodologies and expertise for mental health goes far beyond the Native Hawaiians themselves who are suffering with mental health. These practices are respected and used by many cultures and individuals.

This measure reaffirms the state's commitment to the Native Hawaiians, and allows to for indigenous intelligence to be part of community solutions today.

Moku o Keawe - Hawaii Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **strongly urges** your **SUPPORT** for **SB193**.

Mahalo nui,

Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen

Pelekikena



LATE

Waimānalo Pono Research Hui

February 25, 2019

Aloha Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, and Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

We are the Waimānalo Pono Research Hui, a community and academic partnership with a commitment to a healthy Waimānalo from keiki to kūpuna and mauka to makai. Our mission is to collaborate and work toward a healthier Waimānalo through education, aloha 'āina, and honoring and transferring the 'ike and values of our kūpuna to our keiki through pono research principle. Through our efforts, initiatives like the Waimānalo Limu Hui were born and research projects like the MALAMA Study. Both are concerned with revitalizing cultural practices, building community and family connectedness, and perpetuating Kānaka-centric values.

We urge the committee to PASS SB193 as a way for the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health to recognize ancient Hawaiian knowledge of traditional and customary practitioners in healing treatments, techniques, services, or practices among Native Hawaiians.

Kānaka 'Ōiwi have strong beliefs regarding mana: that our philosophies and knowledge of health are based on intergenerational, scientific 'ike, that consider holistic variables and have been time tested. This traditional wisdom is passed on through lineages rooted in kāhuna practices and 'ike. Mana plays a large role in maui ola, which is the culmination of mana, pono, and lōkahi of one's holistic well-being (spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical).

Traditional Kānaka 'Ōiwi knowledge of ola (life, health, well-being, livelihood) is perpetuated through oral teaching and decades of intensive training with healing experts. Traditional healing modalities such as ho'oponopono, lomilomi, and lā'au lapa'au are but a few practices that are able to provide effective, culturally-based, high quality care to Kānaka 'Ōiwi.

These customary practices offer deep healing benefits to alleviate mental health distress from cultural disconnect and historical trauma. Additionally, the importance of spiritual reconnections to kūpuna, mo'opuna, 'āina, akua, and 'ohana further maintain ola in present day. These traditional forms of healing are necessary to properly address the many health disparities Kānaka 'Ōiwi continue to face. They are based and founded on centuries of evidence-based analyses and observations and entirely relevant to addressing the mental health of Native Hawaiians in present day.

Please show your support for Kānaka 'Ōiwi and our mental health by PASSING SB193.

Mahalo,

Waimānalo Pono Research Hui



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Date: February 26, 2019

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Committee

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kai Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Re: Support for SB 193, Relating to the Composition of the State Council
on Mental Health

Hrg: February 26, 2019 at 1:30 pm at Conference Room 016

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute is in **Support of SB 193** which would require the State Council on Mental Health to have at least three members with demonstrated cultural competence, knowledge, and experience on Native Hawaiian concepts of healing and well-being.

HIPHI is committed to the prevention of disease and promotion of health, which includes achieving the best health for everyone in our society. In Hawai'i, Native Hawaiians experience one of the poorest mental health and chronic disease co-morbidity. There are existing programs in our communities led by experts in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. They have shown promising results in improving mental health, increasing family and community connectedness, and building resilience.

SB193 is in line with priorities identified in the 2017 Report to Legislature of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force (NHHTF), formed by the State Legislature in 2014 (SR 60) to improve the health of indigenous people and of all people in Hawai'i. Council members with Native Hawaiian expertise have the ability to identify, develop, and advocate for programs and services that are culturally appropriate for Native Hawaiians. Therefore, HIPHI respectfully urges the Committee to PASS SB193.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish'.

Trish La Chica, MPA
Policy and Advocacy Director