



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

March 25, 2019

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 130/SR 99 - ENGAGING, ENDORSING, ACCEPTING, AND ADOPTING
THE AARHUS CONVENTION TO ACHIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS PARIS
AGREEMENT, THE 2030 AGENDA, AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS.**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 27, 2109, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this resolution. DHS has a large stake in reducing inequalities and the impact and the incidence of poverty in Hawaii, and to promote the social and economic mobility of Hawaii's residents. DHS provides benefits and services to one in four Hawaii residents, or nearly 360,000 individuals. Benefits and services include financial assistance, supplemental nutrition assistance programs, child care subsidies, rental assistance, an array of services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, education and employment supports, health insurance, protective, and vocational rehabilitation services.

DHS is part of the national movement to improve the delivery of human services lead by the National Governors' Association, the American Public Human Services Association, Ascend of the Aspen Institute, and others. DHS is adopting a service integration and multigenerational approach, is redesigning its business processes, and continues to improve its technology systems. DHS is also engaged in its first departmental strategic plan to improve overall program outcomes

and establish outcome measures of services for children, parents, and families geared to reduce adverse risks and increase protective factors that promote educational attainment and wage progression that lead to economic self-sufficiency.

Ultimately, the goals of our transformation are consistent with the 2030 Development Agenda to end poverty. We are redesigning our system and services to support the improved well-being of individuals, families, and the community, reduce intergenerational poverty, reduce dependence on public benefits, and reduce the human and fiscal costs of poverty.

There is also clear evidence that low income populations often bear the negative impacts of modern industrial life, and that one's physical environment has profound impact on one's health and well-being. The need for preservation of the environment and equitable development principles are foundational elements for Hawaii's residents to thrive.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to engage, endorse, accept, and adopt the AARHUS Convention to Achieve the United Nations Paris Agreement, The 2030 Agenda, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution.

LATE

SCR-130

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 9:57:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments: