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March 27, 2019

TESTIMONY OF KEONE KEALOHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KANU HAWAII
IN SUPPORT OF SCR47 & SR33, RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER WEEK IN HAWAII

Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, Thursday, March 28, 2019, 2:45 p.m. Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Ihara and Committee Members :

I am providing testimony in SUPPORT of SCR47 & SR33 RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER WEEK IN HAWAII.

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

Through the support of that resolution in 2018, the community held over 60 events across 5 islands. Now, in its second year, Volunteer Week in Hawaii 2019 is being celebrated by over 85 organizations hosting over 100 events across 7 islands.

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

With the passage of SCR47 & SR33 and continued recognition of Volunteer Week in Hawaii, we hope to increase the level of volunteer engagement and capacity building for Hawaii's population, including its non-profits and community organizations, in the years to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Keone Kealoha", written in a cursive style.

Keone Kealoha
Executive Director, Kanu Hawaii

SCR-47

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 2:06:47 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/28/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Weber	Testifying for Impact Hub HNL	Support	No

Comments:



March 28, 2019

LATE

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Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee:

It is our honor and privilege to submit testimony *in support of SCR47 & SR33*, which recognizes volunteer week in the State of Hawaii.

This resolution seeks to recognize Volunteer Week in the State of Hawaii in 2020 and 2012. It will help non-profit organizations such as Hawaii Foodbank, who rely heavily on volunteers to support their work, continue to increase community involvement and engagement across the state.

Our volunteers make what we do at Hawaii Foodbank possible. Last year, our volunteer force donated 24,730 hours of service by assisting in our warehouse, in the community, and with special projects and events. They helped with programs such as Food 4 Keiki Back Pack Program, School Pantry Program, Senior Food Box (Commodity Supplemental Food) Program and events such as our Annual Food Drive Day, Great Chefs Fight Hunger, Hunger Walk and more.

Volunteerism connects people with their community and gives a sense of 'ohana and purpose. It provides an opportunity to give back. The small impact from one volunteer can lead to bigger changes in the community and the rest of the world.

Our volunteers help us bring attention to the plight of those who are hungry in Hawaii. They are an inspiration to us and without them, we wouldn't be able to fulfill our mission.

With much respect and aloha,

Ron Mizutani
Hawaii Foodbank
President and Chief Executive Officer
Advocacy

Marielle Terbio
Hawaii Foodbank
Director of Community Engagement &



LATE

SCR-47

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 10:28:09 AM
Testimony for LCA on 3/28/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Veralynn Kealoha-Kamaka	Testifying for Olelo Community Media	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-47

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 2:01:49 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/28/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-47

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 2:15:16 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/28/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keikilani Uehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Volunteering in the community is an effective way to not only build community pride, but also gain positive health benefits. Volunteer Week is an amazing way to demonstrate what focused efforts can do to in a community and leverages resources efficiently. I am writing to express my full support of SCR47 and SR33. Mahalo!

LATE

SCR-47

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 3:47:26 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/28/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keolamalie McComber	Individual	Support	No

Comments: