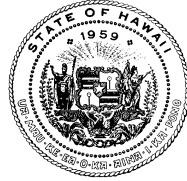


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



BRUCE S. ANDERSON, PHD
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
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doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on HCR 162

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, VIA THE BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VIA THE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION OF RESPONDENTS.

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: March 23, 2021

Room Number: Through
videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a national
2 survey coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that collects data
3 on health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, use of preventive services, and
4 emerging issues. The Department of Health (DOH) oversees administration of the state's
5 BRFSS. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a joint effort of the DOH, the Hawai'i
6 Department of Education (DOE), and the University of Hawai'i Curriculum Research and
7 Development Group, to monitor the health status and risk behaviors of public school students in
8 grades 6 through 12. The BRFSS is conducted annually and the YRBS is a bi-annual survey,
9 according to CDC practice and support. Funding for conducting, analyzing, and reporting from
10 the two surveillance systems are through a combination of various federal grants and state funds.
11 The concurrent resolution requests additional activities that are not part of the regular structure of
12 the systems, and are not budgeted.

13 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports the intent of HCR 162, which requests ongoing
14 data collection and reporting related to the sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender
15 expression of respondents, providing that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the
16 priorities of the requested Executive Budget. The concurrent resolution makes requests that may

1 not be consistent with the methodology, funding structure, and data dissemination policies of the
2 DOH. The BRFSS and YRBS are not ideal surveillance sources for homelessness data (page 1,
3 line 12). Publication of special reports every three years that highlight critical population-based
4 topics and health disparities is contingent on several factors (page 2, lines 12-15). The frequency
5 of special reports are dictated by internal DOH capacity and the availability of funding. The
6 DOH publishes BRFSS and YRBS indicators online on the Hawaii Health Data Warehouse
7 (www.hhdw.org) when data from at least two collection periods are available.

8 In 2017 and 2018, the DOH released consecutive Sexual and Gender Minority Health
9 Reports, highlighting the diverse health and social inequities experienced by Hawai'i's lesbian,
10 gay, bisexual (LGB) and transgender communities. Hawai'i's sexual and gender minorities –
11 including, but not limited to, transgender people, bisexual persons, lesbian women, and gay men
12 – have unique health experiences and needs. Currently, over 3% of adults (approximately
13 30,200 persons) and more than 10% of public high school students (approximately 4,700
14 persons) identify as LGB. Further, about 1% of adults (approximately 19,700 persons) and over
15 3% of public high school students (approximately 1,260 persons) identify as transgender. The
16 reports reveal that, compared to their heterosexual and cisgender peers, respectively, LGB and
17 transgender people experience many early risk factors that contribute to poorer health
18 outcomes.^{1,2}

19 Health disparities among sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) minorities have
20 become an area of increasing concern and focus at the national, state, and local levels; however,
21 limited local data are available to truly advance understanding of the health status of these
22 communities. Two data collection systems provide ongoing validated data that is representative
23 of SOGI adults and youth in Hawai'i: BRFSS and YRBS. The BRFSS is the world's largest
24 ongoing telephone survey of adults aged 18 years or older. Hawai'i has participated in the

¹ *Cisgender* describes a person whose gender identity, expression, or behavior is the same as those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth. *Heterosexual*, or straight, refer to people who are attracted, either exclusively or primarily, to the opposite sex. From: Hawaii Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report, 2017, Hawaii DOH.

<https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2017/05/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport.pdf>
² Hawaii Sexual and General Minority Health Report, 2018: A focus o transgender youth. Hawaii DOH.
<https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2018/09/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport2018.pdf>

1 BRFSS since 1986 and began collecting data on sexual orientation in 2009 and gender identity in
2 2014. Hawai'i BRFSS survey items are determined by the Hawai'i BRFSS Committee. The
3 YRBS monitors the health status and risk behaviors of public middle and high school students.
4 Questions on sexual identity have been included in the high school YRBS since 2005 and the
5 middle school YRBS since 2017. A question on gender identity was added to the high school
6 YRBS in 2017 and to the middle school YRBS in 2019. Hawai'i YRBS survey items are
7 determined by the Hawai'i State Health Survey Committee. For both the BRFSS and YRBS, any
8 Hawai'i-specific survey items must be reviewed and approved by CDC prior to the finalization of
9 these questionnaires.

10 The DOH is a key partner in reducing health disparities for sexual and gender minorities,
11 and remains committed to increasing awareness, institutionalizing interventions to eliminate
12 disparities, and systematizing data collection and reporting of data on sexual and gender
13 minorities. Improving the health, safety, and well-being of sexual and gender minorities and
14 expanding the number of population-based data systems used to identify and monitor sexual and
15 gender minority people are specific national Healthy People 2030 goals.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

March 19, 2021

To: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 162/HR 138 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, VIA THE BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VIA THE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION OF RESPONDENTS.

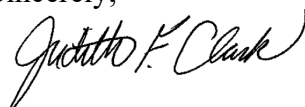
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 162/HR 138 Requesting the Department of Health, Via the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, and the Department of Education, Via the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, to Collect Information on the Sex, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity and Gender Expression of Respondents.

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a valuable data tool to track youth behavior that promotes good health and safety as well as risky behavior in which they may engage. It informs policies and programs for children and adolescents in areas such as tobacco, nutrition, sexual health, and substance use.

The 2018 compilation of data on LGBTQ youth provided critically needed data on this subpopulation. Youth-serving organizations need this type of data to identify needs, and plan and implement evidence-informed programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 10:37:06 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maddalynn Seseapasara	HHHRC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

Mahalo,

Maddalynn Seseapasara

Kua'ana Project, Project Manager



March 19, 2021

House's Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: House Concurrent Resolution 162

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam and Committee Members,

I am writing in support with requested amendments for House Concurrent Resolution 162 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization. HCR 162 calls for REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, VIA THE BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VIA THE YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION OF RESPONDENTS.

The LGBT Caucus appreciates and fully supports the goals of HCR 162 to collect much needed data for Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community. To help ensure that there is no confusion and assist in collecting as much accurate as well as necessary data as possible we are requesting the following amendments:

Amend the first Resolved Clause on Page 1, Line 27 to read:

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is requested, via the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, and the Department of Education is requested, via the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, to collect information on the ~~sex, gender,~~ sexual orientation, ~~and gender identity,~~ and gender expression of respondents; and

Amend the Resolved Clause on Page 2, Line 18 to read:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to include questions related to the ~~sex, gender,~~ sexual orientation, ~~and gender identity,~~ and gender expression of respondents in its Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System questionnaire; and

Amend the Resolved Clause on Page 2, Line 24 to read:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to develop its own questions, working with the Sexual and Gender Minority Workgroup within the Department of Health and/or other Hawai'i based LGBTQIA+ advocacy organizations, related to respondents' ~~gender, sex,~~ sexual orientation, ~~and gender identity,~~ and gender expression as part of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System questionnaire; and

LGBT Caucus Testimony is Support of HCR 162 with Requested Amendments

Amend the Resolved Clause on Page 2, Line 30 to read:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to publish a comprehensive report on the health of Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community every three years; and

Amend the Resolved Clause on Page 2, Line 38 to read:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to compare, in each of these reports, the prevalence of health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services between the LGBTQIA+ population, and where possible LGBTQIA+ sub-populations, and the general population; and

The rationale for these amendments are as follows:

Striking out "sex" and replacing it with "gender" is due to the fact that "sex", in these clinical terms, means the physical intimate act and "gender" refers to whether someone is male, female, non-binary, etc.

Adding the comma after gender identity is to reiterate the fact that one's gender identity is not bound to their gender expression.

Including the Sexual and Gender Minority Workgroup and leaving it open to the Department of Health to seek input from other groups is to ensure that questions that the Department asks are sensitive to the LGBTQIA+ community as well as getting accurate data that this resolution is seeking.

Finally expanding LGBTQ to include IA+ is to be as inclusive as possible since this resolution seeks a comprehensive report including subpopulations. A brief description for LGBTQIA+ is as follows: L = Lesbian, G = Gay, B = Bisexual, T = Transgender, Q = Queer/Questioning, I = Intersex, A = Asexual/Agender and + = the catch all for other ways one refers to their sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression that was not listed previously including but not limited to māhū, aikāne, pansexual, and 2-spirit.

The LGBT Caucus knows that Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community needs this information. Far too often health professionals and advocates are asked for data on Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community and there are no local studies or the studies that there are available are incomplete or very out dated. We all end up relying on studies from the continent or other countries. With the invaluable data that this resolution seeks it will help you all make more informed decisions when it comes to the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community and help strengthen Hawaii's entire community.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 3:00:54 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports HCR 162. Thank you!

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 10:24:46 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/138 to request that the DOH and DOE intentionally collect data around gender identify, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we will be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth. You cannot address what you do not measure. What you measure shows what/who you value. Please embrace this very significant group of youth, count them so they can count on us to provide appropriate and affirming treatment.

Mahalo,

Linda Kim

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 9:25:03 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorenzo Perillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

Mahalo,

Dr. Lorenzo Perillo

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 4:32:41 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Itai Bradshaw-Lang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

We can only create evidence based responses, which are so important in medicine and elsewhere, if we have the raw data that generates the evidence we need. Please help us gather the data we need to help this community effectively.

Mahalo,

Itai Bradshaw-Lang, BSN, RN

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 10:27:12 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

As a public health professional and concerned community member, I urge you to **pass HCR162 without amendments.**

This measure requests that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data, we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

I personally collaborate with many local LGBTQIA+ community members and agencies, who have contributed to the development of this measure in its current form. **Please pass this resolution as it is.**

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 12:13:17 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:43:30 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

Mahalo,

Jen Jenkins

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:59:08 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shayna Lonoaea Alexander	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

Mahalo,

Shayna Lonoaea Alexander

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 7:44:44 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tami Whitney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

Thank you,

Tami

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:09:46 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikki-Ann Yee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:09:53 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha:

I strongly support HCR162.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:21:30 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kunane Dreier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members,

Please pass HCR162/HR138 to request that the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education intentionally collect data around gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation and to expand to include intersex data. With a commitment to report on LGBTQI data we'll be able to have a rich information source to benefit some of our most marginalized community members, especially our youth.

Mahalo,

Kunane Dreier

HCR-162

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 4:12:47 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SCR162.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee

Kihei