



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice

In Support of HCR3 – RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA
GOVERNANCE FOR FACT-BASED POLICYMAKING.

House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

Thursday, March 18, 2021, 10:30 AM, Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and members of the committee:

We write in **SUPPORT** of HCR3.

This measure calls for improved data collection and reporting practices by certain state departments, namely practices disaggregating data for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders and developing procedures in partnership with certain stakeholders. Proposals in HCR3 provide best practices not only for immediate needs for COVID-19, but also for all programs serving populations struggling to access successful social determinants of health, such as food security, affordable housing, living-wage work, and social justice.

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice works to build a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. Data is key to informing our research, as well as providing full understanding of systemic issues for Hawai'i residents struggling to get by. Yet, we often find that state programs either lack detailed disaggregated data, do not collect data at all, or do not provide enough detailed data to the public. These poor data practices impede solutions that will justly and effectively support marginalized people in Hawai'i.

Importance of Data Disaggregation & Determination

HCR3 provides two vital directions for improving the health and well-being of Hawai'i residents, especially for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders: (1) disaggregating racial/ethnic data, and (2) partnering with stakeholders from impacted communities to develop data collection, processing, retention, governance, and sharing.

Disaggregated data is information broken down into meaningful component parts, such as by race/ethnicity, age, gender, geographic area, or other characteristics that render the information meaningful for various uses. Without disaggregation, data cannot reveal disproportionate impacts on key groups. We saw an example of the adverse impacts of this in the early months of the pandemic. The state Department of Health failed to disaggregate data of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, which hid the disease's high prevalence in Pacific Islander communities. If advocates had not spoken up about the need for the state disaggregate data, we may not have implemented today's targeted services, and we may have seen many more unnecessary deaths.

The efforts of advocates during the COVID-19 pandemic show the importance of the state partnering

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

with communities and stakeholders to develop data practices for better informed and effective services for disproportionately impacted groups. Convening and consulting with impacted communities on data collection and reporting practices is best practice that should carry over into all agencies. By bringing community stakeholders to the table, officials can incorporate cultural knowledge, skills and goals in service design. Communities have inherent strengths that may not be found in generic models. By working collaboratively with these communities to identify the data that matters, these community strengths can be leveraged in a way that benefits us all.

Ineffective Data Practices by State Agencies

HCR3 urges the Governor to establish a Task Force on 21st Century Data Governance to assess the current data collection, processing, retention, and sharing procedures, needs, and challenges across state agencies. This process is needed not just for the current emergency and recovery, but also for existing programs addressing all social determinant of health. Research shows there is a lack of data and ineffective data practices across all agencies, but we cannot create solutions without knowing the problem.

Hawai'i Budget & Policy Center, a project of Hawai'i Appleseed, and Papa Ola Lōkahi recently released a relevant report, "[Data Justice: About Us, By Us, For Us.](#)"¹ The report reviews the data collection practices of several departments and programs that disproportionately serve Native Hawaiians. Our research revealed that poor data practices on race and ethnicity were found across departments. For example:

- The Judiciary Branch of the state government does not collect or report ethnic/racial data of any kind, even though Native Hawaiians are over-represented in correctional facilities; and
- The Corrections Division at DPS records a wide variety of ethnic information about inmates, and their records show that 37 percent of the people in jails and prisons identify as Native Hawaiian. However, current data collection only allows people to indicate one race, which may miss data for part-Native Hawaiians. Because of this method, the percentage of Native Hawaiians in the correctional system is likely higher.
- The Department of Health's Behavioral Health Division collects information in such categories as "Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander" and "more than one race," which may include Native Hawaiians of mixed race. The largest number of MHD's clients (29 percent) are reported as "race not available," which also may include Native Hawaiians.

Our Data Justice report's small sample size shows it is highly likely that HCR3's Task Force would reveal systemic problems with state agencies' collection of disaggregated data and its use in designing and improving programs, and reporting transparency. The Task Force report would help the Legislature and advocates make long-lasting change, so our state can be prepared to analyze needs and to create effective programs for any type of emergency.

Hawai'i Appleseed urges the committee to **PASS HCR3** to address our immediate public health emergency, as well as to prepare for the future. We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

¹ <https://www.hibudget.org/projects/data-justice>



HCR3

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA GOVERNANCE FOR FACT-BASED POLICYMAKING

Ke Kōmike Hale o ke Kau Ma‘i Laulaha a me ka Mākaukau Pōpilikia
House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

Malaki 18, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Lumi 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HCR3, a measure in OHA’s 2021 Legislative Package. This resolution seeks to obtain critical data necessary for effective and targeted responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and to assess and modernize governmental data collection, processing, retention, and sharing practices to facilitate fact-based policymaking through the 21st century and beyond.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted longstanding data challenges faced by state, county, and private entities throughout Hawai‘i. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are broad—affecting our community’s health, employment, and housing security, for example—and may also include more nuanced, secondary effects such as increases in domestic violence. Unfortunately, efforts to better understand and address the significant and unique impacts of the pandemic on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have been stymied by insufficient and inconsistent demographic data collection, processing, retention, and sharing by and between critical government entities and programs. Notably, these data governance challenges have been a source of concern for many years, even prior to the pandemic, and have long inhibited the development of data-driven, fact-based, and tailored policies and interventions to address the varied and unique needs of our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

HCR3 seeks to address these longstanding data challenges by: (1) requesting that certain state agencies, the county police departments, and the Judiciary compile and share existing disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders; (2) urging those same entities to work with OHA and the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawai‘i COVID-19 Response, Recovery, and Resilience Team to develop procedures and agreements for improved data collection, processing, retention, and sharing; and (3) urging the Governor to establish a Task Force on 21st Century Data Collection to assess the current data collection, processing, retention, and sharing procedures, needs, and challenges across state agencies.

This resolution is an important step towards ensuring that policymaking for COVID-19 recovery efforts are based upon community-specific data that is timely, clear, and consistent. Disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders is particularly crucial to

understanding how and to what extent these communities are specifically impacted by COVID-19, so that resources can be allocated efficiently and effectively. Looking beyond the current pandemic, this resolution will also facilitate important and long-overdue conversations about data governance that can aid in the implementation of robust data infrastructure across state agencies, which will help to better inform policies and decisionmaking for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR3. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

HCR-3

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 5:37:34 PM

Testimony for PDP on 3/18/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amy agbayani	Hawai`i Friends of Civil Rights	Support	No

Comments:

HAWAI`I FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS Amy Agbayani Co-Chair Pat McManaman Co-Chair

The Hawai`i Friends of Civil Rights SUPPORTS HCR 3. Disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (NHPI) and other race and ethnic groups is important for NHPI, immigrant communities, and for Hawai`i as a whole. HCR 5 is a critical step forward to assure health equity and informed, data-driven decision-making in our state.

The pandemic has underscored the importance of disaggregated race, ethnicity, and spoken language data in the delivery of critical health care information and other services for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and limited English proficient persons. A not insignificant percentage of Hawai`i's total population. Data disaggregation will allow government entities to determine immediate community-specific needs and impacts in any emergency, natural disaster, or health pandemic and to also meet those needs in relevant languages and in a culturally appropriate manner. Importantly, disaggregated data will also provide government entities the ability to leverage and incorporate the data in federal grant applications.

Disaggregating the data collected by public health, safety and welfare programs compliments these organizations' missions and enhances their business models for providing care for all Hawai`i's residents in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

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

Amy Agbayani Co-Chair

Pat McManaman Co-Chair



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

Re: **HCR 3 – Recognizing the importance of 21st century data governance for fact-based policymaking**
Hawai'i State Capitol, via videoconference, room 309
March 18, 2021, 10:30 AM

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in support of HCR 3. This resolution recognizes the importance of data that disaggregates Native Hawaiians from other Pacific Islanders in pandemic response and recovery efforts for these communities and for the State as a whole, as well as urges action from various state government entities to achieve that goal.

This week's new Department of Health report on COVID-19 vaccinations,¹ which finds that only 8.8% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have received shots, while they represent more than 40% of COVID-19 cases in our state, illustrates the importance of this resolution. The DOH claims that it is unable to provide separate vaccination rates for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, or Filipinos (who also have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19) due to the lack of disaggregated data.

Without good data, we can't make good policy. The recent *Data Justice* report² by Papa Ola Lokahi, a Native Hawaiian health advocacy organization, and the Hawai'i Budget & Policy Center highlights the lack of adequate data about the Native Hawaiian community and calls for the state to improve its collection of ethnic and racial data. They state:

Collecting, analyzing and utilizing data sets the course for state program development and improvement. Yet, our research revealed that state programs' data practices fail to adequately detail needs and successes of Native Hawaiians. Some programs combine Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander demographic data and don't break out Native Hawaiians from other multi-racial clients.

Native Hawaiians still face disproportionate rates of poor indicators in health, wealth and other social determinants. Our state needs better data in order to ensure that public programs are addressing the greatest needs and achieving the best results our Native Hawaiian keiki and their families.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass HCR 3.

Thank you,
Nicole Woo, Director, Research and Economic Policy

¹ <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2021/03/16/breaking-news/only-8-8-of-native-hawaiians-and-pacific-islanders-have-received-covid-vaccine-doh-says/>

² <https://www.hibudget.org/projects/data-justice>



Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i

A Project of the William S. Richardson School of Law

2515 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

T: (808) 688-3313 / www.mlpchawaii.org

Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2021

Re: Support of HCR3: Recognizing The Importance Of 21st Century Data Governance For Fact-Based Policymaking

Dear Committee Members,

The Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) represents patients at a community health center with their legal needs. Most of our clients are from Pacific Islander communities and have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. We strongly support HCR3.

Data disaggregation is necessary to competently and equitably serve and protect all of Hawai'i's residents. It is now well-documented that state agencies let down NHPI communities during the early days of the pandemic, and the Department of Health's decision to delay releasing disaggregated COVID-19 morbidity and mortality data was an unnecessary hurdle in this fight.¹ The consequences were deadly, as Pacific Islanders were twice as likely to be killed or hospitalized by COVID-19.² These data shortcomings continue with the vaccine, as it was recently reported that Hawai'i is one of nine states that still has not shared vaccine rollout disaggregated by race and ethnicity.³

The need for data disaggregation is not limited to the Department of Health but applies to all the agencies listed by HCR 3. First, many NHPI families were unable to access Unemployment Insurance at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations due to

¹ See, e.g., Anita Hofschneider, *Health Officials Knew COVID-19 Would Hit Pacific Islanders Hard. The State Still Fell Short*, Civil Beat, August 17, 2020, at

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/08/health-officials-knew-covid-19-would-hit-pacific-islanders-hard-the-state-still-fell-short/>; Anita Hofschneider, *DOH Says Native Hawaiians Have A High COVID-19 Rate. But How High?*, Civil Beat, April 29, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/native-hawaiians-have-a-high-covid-19-rate-but-how-high/>.

² Anita Hofschneider, *Hawaii Pacific Islanders Are Twice As Likely to Be Hospitalized for COVID-19*, Civil Beat, November 20, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/11/hawaii-pacific-islanders-are-twice-as-likely-to-be-hospitalized-for-covid-19/>.

³ Nambdi Ndugga, *Latest Data on COVID-19 Vaccinations Race/Ethnicity*, Kaiser Family Foundation, Mar. 3, 2021 at <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/latest-data-on-covid-19-vaccinations-race-ethnicity/>; Anita Hofschneider, *Critics Say More Data Needed To Avoid Racial Inequity in Hawaii's Vaccine Rollout*, Mar. 11, 2021 at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/03/critics-say-more-data-needed-to-avoid-racial-inequity-in-hawaiis-vaccine-rollout/>.



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language access, technology access, and even initial confusion about COFA eligibility.⁴ Second, although county law enforcement has repeatedly denied the existence of racial disparity problems, the community has long shared stories of racial disparities in policing.⁵ The data that does exist is troubling: for example, with the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, Micronesians represented 26% of those taken into custody for violating the orders, even though they represent only 1% of the whole state population.⁶

The advocates at the MLP have heard story after story of these disparities and their harmful effects on families, but where anecdotes are not enough to move policy, we need data. The only way to truly understand the problem is with greater and more transparent disaggregated data, a powerful tool for both community members and state agencies. The state needs to take the lessons of COVID-19 seriously and address the disparities facing the NHPI community. HCR 3 is an important step in that process, and its passage is a matter of health equity, racial justice, and civil rights.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony supporting HCR3.

Dina Shek

Legal Director, Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i

⁴ Anita Hofschneider, *Advocates: Lack of Interpreter Services at Unemployment Office is Illegal*, Civil Beat, July 7, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/07/advocates-lack-of-interpreter-services-at-unemployment-office-is-illegal/>; Anita Hofschneider, *Hawaii Updates Unemployment Application to Include Pacific Migrants*, Civil Beat, April 14, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-updates-unemployment-application-to-include-pacific-migrants/>.

⁵ Christine Jedra & Anita Hofschneider, *'Significant' Disparity In Use Of Force Questioned By Honolulu Police Commission*, Civil Beat, February 3, 2021, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/02/significant-disparity-in-use-of-force-against-some-groups-questioned-by-honolulu-police-commission/>; Anita Hofschneider, *ACLU Presses HPD To Fix Racial Disparities In Policing*, Civil Beat, July 6, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/07/aclu-presses-hpd-to-fix-racial-disparities-in-policing/>; Anita Hofschneider, *Honolulu Police Chief Hopes Nationwide Reform Movement Skips Hawai'i*, Civil Beat, Jun. 19, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/06/honolulu-police-chief-hopes-nationwide-reform-movement-skips-hawaii/>.

⁶ Ashley Mizuo, *Racial Disparities Emerge In HPD Enforcement Of Stay-At-Home Violations*, Hawai'i Public Radio, Jun. 29, 2020 at <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/post/racial-disparities-emerge-hpd-enforcement-stay-home-violations#stream/0>.

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR3
RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA GOVERNANCE
FOR FACT-BASED POLICYMAKING**

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Hearing Date: 3/18/2021

Room Number: 309

Chair Ichiyama and Vice-Chair Eli,

The Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights SUPPORTS HCR 3. Disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) populations is important for immigrant communities and for Hawai'i as a whole, and HCR 3 is a critical step for health equity and informed, data-driven decision-making in our state.

It is well documented that state agencies let down NHPI communities, including Pacific Islander immigrants, during the early days of the pandemic. The Department of Health's decision to delay releasing disaggregated COVID-19 morbidity and mortality data was an unnecessary barrier to addressing health inequities and curbing the pandemic.¹ And the consequences were deadly, as Pacific Islanders were twice as likely to be killed or hospitalized by COVID-19.²

Today, these failures continue with the vaccine. It was recently reported that Hawai'i is one of nine states that still has not shared vaccine rollout disaggregated by race and ethnicity.³ Without data, we only have stories, and the stories show that the rollout has been uneven and that Pacific Islander immigrants who want to access the life-saving vaccine, given the disproportionate

¹ See, e.g., Anita Hofschneider, *Health Officials Knew COVID-19 Would Hit Pacific Islanders Hard. The State Still Fell Short*, Civil Beat, August 17, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/08/health-officials-knew-covid-19-would-hit-pacific-islanders-hard-the-state-still-fell-short/>; Anita Hofschneider, *DOH Says Native Hawaiians Have A High COVID-19 Rate. But How High?*, Civil Beat, April 29, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/native-hawaiians-have-a-high-covid-19-rate-but-how-high/>.

² Anita Hofschneider, *Hawaii Pacific Islanders Are Twice As Likely to Be Hospitalized for COVID-19*, Civil Beat, November 20, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/11/hawaii-pacific-islanders-are-twice-as-likely-to-be-hospitalized-for-covid-19/>.

³ Nambdi Ndugga, *Latest Data on COVID-19 Vaccinations Race/Ethnicity*, Kaiser Family Foundation, Mar. 3, 2021 at <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/latest-data-on-covid-19-vaccinations-race-ethnicity/>; Anita Hofschneider, *Critics Say More Data Needed To Avoid Racial Inequity in Hawaii's Vaccine Rollout*, Mar. 11, 2021 at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/03/critics-say-more-data-needed-to-avoid-racial-inequity-in-hawaiis-vaccine-rollout/>.

devastation to their communities, have not been able to do so.⁴ But if anecdotes are not enough to move policy in our state departments, then we need data. The lack of transparent, accessible data disaggregation leaves the community only with our stories and our sense that health justice is not the priority it needs to be.

Data disaggregation concerns are not limited to the work of the Department of Health. The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) also let down the NHPI community, particularly Pacific Islander immigrants, as individuals were unable to access Unemployment Insurance due to language access, technology access, and even initial confusion about COFA eligibility.⁵ The Department of Human Services also saw an increase in demand for social services when the pandemic hit, even as COVID-19 made them more difficult to access. Without the release of disaggregated data, we have no way of understanding the overall extent of the consequences of departmental challenges and shortcomings, beyond community stories of NHPI families unable to access benefits which they had paid into and where entitled to receive.

Finally, disparities in NHPI experiences with the Judiciary and county law enforcement must be taken seriously in Hawai'i. In particular, county law enforcement has a history of racial disparities in policing, well known to the community through countless individual stories—some reported by news sources and many quietly shared among neighbors—but county law enforcement has repeatedly denied existence of racial disparity problems.⁶ The data that does exist is troubling: for example, with the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, Micronesians represented 26% of those taken into custody for violating the orders, even though they represent

⁴ Anita Hofschneider, *Advocates Say Pacific Islanders Should be On Hawaii's Vaccination List. Here's Why*, Feb. 2, 2021, <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/02/advocates-say-pacific-islanders-should-be-on-hawaiiis-vaccination-list-heres-why/>.

⁵ Anita Hofschneider, *Advocates: Lack of Interpreter Services at Unemployment Office is Illegal*, Civil Beat, July 7, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/07/advocates-lack-of-interpreter-services-at-unemployment-office-is-illegal/>; Anita Hofschneider, *Hawaii Updates Unemployment Application to Include Pacific Migrants*, Civil Beat, April 14, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-updates-unemployment-application-to-include-pacific-migrants/>.

⁶ Christine Jedra & Anita Hofschneider, *'Significant' Disparity In Use Of Force Questioned By Honolulu Police Commission*, Civil Beat, February 3, 2021, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/02/significant-disparity-in-use-of-force-against-some-groups-questioned-by-honolulu-police-commission/>; Anita Hofschneider, *ACLU Presses HPD To Fix Racial Disparities In Policing*, Civil Beat, July 6, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/07/aclu-presses-hpd-to-fix-racial-disparities-in-policing/>; Anita Hofschneider, *Honolulu Police Chief Hopes Nationwide Reform Movement Skips Hawai'i*, Civil Beat, Jun. 19, 2020, at <https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/06/honolulu-police-chief-hopes-nationwide-reform-movement-skips-hawaii/>.

only 1% of the whole state population.⁷ The only way to truly understand the problem is with greater and more transparent disaggregated data.

The importance of data disaggregation is well studied,⁸ and here in Hawai'i, while there are existing efforts at data disaggregation, they have not gone far enough or come fast enough. HCR 3 is necessary for state agencies to address data disaggregation in a systematic, transparent manner so that Hawai'i can recover from COVID-19 and the economic downturn in as efficient, effective, and equitable way as possible. Data disaggregation is a matter of health equity, racial justice, and civil rights. We urge the Committee to PASS HCR 3. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Catherine Chen, Co-chair, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Liza Ryan Gill, Co-chair, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

⁷ Ashley Mizuo, *Racial Disparities Emerge In HPD Enforcement Of Stay-At-Home Violations*, Hawai'i Public Radio, Jun. 29, 2020 at <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/post/racial-disparities-emerge-hpd-enforcement-stay-home-violations#stream/0>.

⁸ Victor Rubin, et. al., *Counting a Diverse Nation: Disaggregated Data on Race and Ethnicity to Advance a Culture of Health*, PolicyLink (2018).



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Garret Sugai
Kaiser Permanente

Date: March 17, 2021

To: Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
Members of the House Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness
Committee

Re: Support for HCR 3, Recognizing the Importance of 21st Century
Data Governance for Fact-Based Policymaking.

Hrg: March 18, 2021 at 10:30 AM via Videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Support of HCR 3**, which seeks disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) and better data governance policies by state and county agencies.

The events of 2020 saw widespread acknowledgement of racism as a public health crisis, and greater understanding of the influence of social determinants of health on Hawaii's communities. Without sound data to support action, we risk losing momentum, and an opportunity to decrease health risks for Hawaii's most vulnerable populations.

Timely, detailed, and disaggregated data is a key component to develop good policy. In particular, disaggregated data for NHPIs will identify critical community needs and inform policies. This is especially relevant in light of the disparities highlighted and exacerbated by COVID-19. Beyond the pandemic, good data will be key to ending long-standing inequities for the NHPI community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 3.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director

ⁱ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
The Honorable Stacelyn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

From: Dr. Gerard Akaka, Vice President, Native Hawaiian Affairs & Clinical Support, The Queen's Health Systems
Colette Masunaga, Director, Government Relations & External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 18, 2021

Re: Support for HCR3, Recognizing the importance of 21st century data governance for fact-based policymaking.

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR3, which among other initiatives, seeks to improve data governance, disaggregate data on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI), and establishes a 21st Century Data Governance task force.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has underscored critical role of disaggregated data in order to best inform our response and recovery. As a partner with the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery, and Resilience Team, Queen's is committed to working with other stakeholders to improve data governance and protocols for collection, processing, retention and sharing.

Mahalo for allowing us to testify in support of HCR3.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

HCR-3

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 1:41:52 PM

Testimony for PDP on 3/18/2021 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a Native Hawaiian attorney and doctoral student in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR5.

Indigenous data sovereignty is critical to Hawaiian nation-rebuilding. This resolution urges the appropriate steps needed to improve governance of Native Hawaiian data, as well as expand Native Hawaiian rights to and control over Native Hawaiian data. OHA can help coordinate other state agencies to ensure that data collected about Native Hawaiians is accurate, accessible to our community, and beneficial to our community. Through SCR5's careful process, state and county agencies can engage on critical needs and challenges related to the collection and reporting of Native Hawaiian data, while building internal infrastructure to best serve Native Hawaiian data needs. I urge the state take these actions to support future Native Hawaiian data governance and Native Hawaiian data sovereignty.

HCR-3

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:48:30 PM

Testimony for PDP on 3/18/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dina Shek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly SUPPORT HCR 3 as a critical—and long overdue—step towards developing better policies for all people of Hawai'i. Disaggregated data and community-informed categories are essential bases for an accurate and meaningful understanding of our community. This critical data has been lacking for too long, and we have seen the deadly consequences for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities during the pandemic.

Passing HCR 3 is a significant step towards advancing justice and addressing critical disparities in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dina Shek.

HCR-3

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:32:15 PM

Testimony for PDP on 3/18/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in STRONG support of HCR3. This is so critical for Hawai`i and it's about time!

HCR-3

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:59:46 PM

Testimony for PDP on 3/18/2021 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha PDP Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HCR3 - 21st Century Data Governance for Fact-Based Policymaking. My name is Thaddeus Pham (he/him), and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Hawai‘i’s Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) peoples.

HCR3 would recognize the importance of data governance and facilitating fact-based policymaking in the 21st century, and it would recognize the importance of detailed and disaggregated data in pandemic response and recovery efforts. This measure would also urge: (1) the State and its departments to compile and share existing and disaggregated data and to develop procedures and agreements for improving data governance, and (2) the Governor to establish a Task Force on 21st Century Data Governance to assess the current data collection procedures, needs, and challenges.

The current lack of data on NHPIs experiencing challenges in areas such as employment, education, domestic violence and incarceration have long hindered state agencies’ efforts to address systemic inequalities and the ongoing historical injustice against these distinct groups. The Office of Management and Budget’s Statistic Policy Directive No. 15 (OMB-15) establishes federal standards that group Polynesians, Micronesians, and Melanesians together as “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.” Though the State of Hawai‘i may create additional subcategories that further disaggregate data, the State has historically failed to collect targeted data on NHPIs, masking systemic injustices impacting these peoples today.

HCR3 is particularly critical as we increasingly rely on data and information to create programs, implement policies, and address problems we face in the 21st Century. Without accurate, disaggregated data that accounts for the experiences of our community’s most vulnerable populations, we cannot accurately know what problems exist or how to address them. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we must ensure that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders get the targeted and data-informed relief that they desperately need.

Mahalo for your compassionate leadership and the opportunity to testify on HCR3.

Sincerely,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HCR-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:34:59 AM

Testimony for PDP on 3/18/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judy Strait-Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Linda Ichiyama and Vice Chair Eli and Members of the community

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR3 – Recognizing the Importance of 21st Century Data Governance for Fact-based Policymaking. This resolution is a critical step in helping ensure that Covid 19 recovery efforts are based on community-specific data. Hawaii needs better data across state agencies to effectively respond to Covid19 challenges.

Please support this resolution.

Judy Strait-Jones

HCR-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:42:19 AM

Testimony for PDP on 3/18/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gloria Palma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HCR3. I strongly support this measure. HCR3 would recognize the importance of data governance and facilitating fact-based policymaking in the 21st century and it would recognize the importance of detailed and disaggregated data in pandemic response and recovery efforts. The lack of data on NHPI's experiencing challenges in areas such as employment, education, domestic violence, and incarceration has long hindered state agencies' efforts to address systemic inequalities and ongoing historical injustice against these distinct groups. Without accurate, disaggregated data that accounts for the experiences of our community's most vulnerable populations, we cannot accurately know what problems exist or how to address them. Mahalo for your compassionate leadership.

HCR-3

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:22:10 PM

Testimony for PDP on 3/18/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terina Faagau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HCR3 for 21st Century Data Governance for Fact-Based Policymaking. My name is Terina Fa'agau, and I strongly support this measure. I urge you to pass this measure and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) peoples.

The current lack of data on NHPIs experiencing challenges in areas such as employment, education, domestic violence, and incarceration has long hindered state agencies' efforts to address systemic inequalities and the ongoing historical injustice against these distinct groups. The Office of Management and Budget's Statistic Policy Directive No. 15 (OMB-15) establishes federal standards that group Polynesians, Micronesians, and Melanesians together as "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander." Though the State of Hawai'i may create additional subcategories that further disaggregate data, the State has historically failed to collect targeted data on NHPIs, masking systemic injustices impacting these peoples today.

HCR3 is particularly critical as we increasingly rely on data and information to create programs, implement policies, and address problems we face in the 21st Century. Without accurate, disaggregated data that account for the experiences of our community's most vulnerable populations, we cannot accurately know what problems exist or how to address them. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we must ensure that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders get the targeted and data-informed relief that they desperately need.

Mahalo for your compassionate leadership and the opportunity to testify on HCR3.

Sincerely,

Terina Fa'agau