

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 5:36:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support of HCR 59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy as a roadmap to move towards no new hepatitis A, B or C infections in Hawaii and to increase access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C.

Hawaii is the first state in the county to have its elimination strategy encompass hepatitis A, B and C and given our very high rates of liver cancer (because of high rates of hepatitis), I applaud this strategy to make our communities healthier and stronger.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Maddalynn Seseapasara

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 59, HD 1

TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, & Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Grants, Development & Policy Manager

DATE: April 15, 2021 (10:00 AM)

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HCR 59, HD 1, which recognizes and supports ongoing collaborative efforts to implement a statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis A, B, & C in Hawaii. There are up to 63,000 people in Hawaii possibly affected with hepatitis B or C, contributing to one of the highest rates of the liver cancer in the nation.

HHRC and its partner organization, [Hep Free Hawaii](#), publicly released “[Hep Free 2030](#)” on July 28, 2020, World Hepatitis Day. Shortly before the release of the strategy, [the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared viral hepatitis a “winnable battle,”](#) making it a national public health priority where significant progress can be made in relatively short timeframe.

The strategy outlined in Hep Free 2030 is the product of an ongoing collaboration of over 90 organizations, including the Harm Reduction Services Branch of the Hawaii State Department of Health, and has the formal support of Lieutenant Governor Green and U.S. Senators Hirono and Schatz.

The vision of the strategy includes the integration of culturally appropriate services within a comprehensive system of care and promoting the core values of *harm reduction*, *social justice*, *intersectionality*, and *aloha*. This vision is congruent with the vision of the [National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan](#), which promotes “access to high quality health care and curative treatments, free from stigma and discrimination.”

HHRC’s mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/14/2021 8:53:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Saltman	Testifying for Hawaii Learning Groups, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support of HCR 59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy as a roadmap to move towards no new hepatitis A, B or C infections in Hawaii and to increase access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C.

Hepatitis C (HCV) is an infection with a cure! In over 30 years of primary care practice in Hawaii, I have never seen anything like this. I started treating HCV in 2011 when treatment was a year of weekly injections that made patients feel ill. For the next 4-5 years, almost every year, newer treatments were approved that each made the prior ones obsolete. These were not "me too" drugs; they were more effective with less side effects. Now, we can cure 95+% of hepatitis C infections with only 8 weeks of pills taken once daily, with minimal side effects. This is incredible! HCV is a special case where the virus is not able to hide out inside of the cells. We test patients 12 weeks after the end of treatment to verify persisting absence of detectable virus. It really works!

This goal is shared by the World Health Organization. Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and the United Kingdom should reach the targets by 2030. In the U.S., Connecticut, South Carolina and Washington—are set to reduce new infections by 80% and eliminate hep C by 2030.

Hawaii is a leader in the country in adopting these goals and moving forward with plans. As an island state, we are an ideal location to achieve these outcomes.

Further, I believe a coordinated effort to identify and treat hepatitis C infections is an excellent model for team care and for how a high functioning health system can work. The steps needed are well-defined as are the outcomes measures.

Please support HRC 59 as one step in the direction to eliminate hepatitis A, B and C in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Daniel Saltman, MD FACP

Associate Clinical Professor, Dept. of Internal Medicine, John A. Burns School of
Medicine, University of Hawaii

Director, Project ECHO: Hawaii Learning Groups

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 59, HD 1

TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, & Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Aaron Ruddick
Medical Case Manager

DATE: April 15, 2021 (10:00 AM)

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** HCR 59, HD 1, which recognizes and supports ongoing collaborative efforts to implement a statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis A, B, & C in Hawaii. There are up to 63,000 people in Hawaii possibly affected with hepatitis B or C, contributing to one of the highest rates of the liver cancer in the nation.

HHRC and its partner organization, [Hep Free Hawaii](#), publicly released “[Hep Free 2030](#)” on July 28, 2020, World Hepatitis Day. Shortly before the release of the strategy, [the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared viral hepatitis a “winnable battle,”](#) making it a national public health priority where significant progress can be made in relatively short timeframe.

The strategy outlined in Hep Free 2030 is the product of an ongoing collaboration of over 90 organizations, including the Harm Reduction Services Branch of the Hawaii State Department of Health, and has the formal support of Lieutenant Governor Green and U.S. Senators Hirono and Schatz.

The vision of the strategy includes the integration of culturally appropriate services within a comprehensive system of care and promoting the core values of *harm reduction*, *social justice*, *intersectionality*, and *aloha*. This vision is congruent with the vision of the [National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan](#), which promotes “access to high quality health care and curative treatments, free from stigma and discrimination.”

HHRC’s mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 59, HD 1

TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, & Ways & Means Committee
FROM: Heather Lusk, Hep Free Hawaii
DATE: April 15, 2021 (10:00 AM)

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

Hep Free Hawaii strongly supports HCR 59 (SCR 178) this recognizes and supports the ongoing collaborative efforts to implement a statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis in Hawaii. This resolution specifically supports the “*Hep Free 2030*” statewide strategy which will be the first elimination strategy in the nation to address hepatitis A, B and C.

Hawaii has one of the highest rates in the U.S. of liver cancer which is directly related to our disproportionately high rates of hepatitis, esp. hepatitis B, in the islands. HFH and its close to 100 community partners developed the “*Hep Free 2030*” strategy over the past two years and has been working to implement micro-elimination strategies, such as the Hepatitis ECHO Project launched in January 2021, to move towards no new infections and supporting those living with chronic hepatitis access to life-saving care. The vision of the strategy includes the integration of culturally appropriate services within a comprehensive system of care and promoting the core values of *harm reduction, social justice, intersectionality, and aloha*.

HFH is a coalition of local, national, and global partners dedicated to increasing awareness of and access to viral hepatitis and harm reduction services throughout the islands. Born out of a partnership of the Hawaii Department of Health and the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center, Hep Free Hawaii and its close to 100 community partners are dedicated to making Hawaii “Hep Free”.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please visit www.hepfreehawaii.org for more info!

In July 2020, we transitioned from our previous [2018-2020 Strategic Plan](#) to [Hep Free 2030: The Hawaii Hepatitis Elimination Strategy 2020-2030](#). Together with 120 active partners over 12 months of planning, we identified these five Priority Areas to eliminate viral hepatitis in Hawai'i by 2030:

1. Awareness and Education
2. Access to Services
3. Advocacy at All Levels
4. Equity in Everything
5. Data-Driven Decision-Making

Join our efforts to make #HepFree2030 a reality!



HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 5:46:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Abitbol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support of HCR 59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy as a roadmap to move towards no new hepatitis A, B, or C infections in Hawaii and to increase access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C.

Hawaii is the first state in the county to have its elimination strategy encompass hepatitis A, B, and C. Given our very high rates of liver cancer--because of high rates of hepatitis--I applaud this strategy to make our communities healthier and stronger.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

David Abitbol

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 6:28:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in **strong support** of HCR59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy - no new hepatitis A, B or C infections in Hawaii. It is critical that increased access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C be strengthened.

Hawaii is the first state in the country to have an elimination strategy encompassing hepatitis A, B and C. I applaud this strategy to reduce liver cancers caused by high rates of hepatitis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 7:08:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I **strongly support** HCR 59, HD 1, which recognizes and supports ongoing collaborative efforts to implement a statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis A, B, & C in Hawai‘i. There are up to 63,000 people in Hawai‘i possibly affected with hepatitis B or C, contributing to one of the highest rates of the liver cancer in the nation.

HHRC and its partner organization, [Hep Free Hawai‘i](#), publicly released “[Hep Free 2030](#)” on July 28, 2020, World Hepatitis Day. Shortly before the release of the strategy, [the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared viral hepatitis a “winnable battle.”](#) making it a national public health priority where significant progress can be made in relatively short timeframe.

The strategy outlined in Hep Free 2030 is the product of an ongoing collaboration of over 90 organizations, including the Harm Reduction Services Branch of the Hawai‘i State Department of Health, and has the formal support of Lieutenant Governor Green and U.S. Senators Hirono and Schatz.

The vision of the strategy includes the integration of culturally appropriate services within a comprehensive system of care and promoting the core values of *harm reduction, social justice, intersectionality, and aloha*. This vision is congruent with the vision of the [National Viral Hepatitis Action Plan](#), which promotes “access to high quality health care and curative treatments, free from stigma and discrimination.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 9:01:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DOMINIC CHOW	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support of HCR 59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy as a roadmap to move towards no new hepatitis A, B or C infections in Hawaii and to increase access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C. As a physician practicing in the state of Hawaii, I have seen the long term complications from infectious hepatitis. We need better screening, treatment and education regarding this treatable disease.

Hawaii is the first state in the county to have its elimination strategy encompass hepatitis A, B and C and given our very high rates of liver cancer (because of high rates of hepatitis), I applaud this strategy to make our communities healthier and stronger.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dominic Chow, MD, PhD, MPH

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 10:41:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha WAM Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned citizen, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR59, which requests the Legislature to recognize and support hepatitis elimination in Hawai'i, as detailed in the Hep Free 2030 strategy.

Hawai'i has one of the highest rates of liver cancer in the country, mostly due to hepatitis. The CDC recently recommended that all adults get tested for hepatitis C, which means that hepatitis in Hawai'i affects all communities. Many of the communities most affected by hepatitis (people who are houseless, people who are foreign born, people who are incarcerated) are also disparately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, this resolution would support a community-driven strategy to support communities to eliminate hepatitis and related harms.

Additionally, as there are no appropriations associated with this measure, I urge you to please support HCR59.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/14/2021 7:39:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Machida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support of HCR 59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy as a roadmap to move towards no new hepatitis A, B or C infections in Hawaii and to increase access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C.

Hawaii is the first state in the county to have its elimination strategy encompass hepatitis A, B and C and given our very high rates of liver cancer (because of high rates of hepatitis), I applaud this strategy to make our communities healthier and stronger.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Melissa Machida, Pharm. D.

Times Clinical Pharmacy Manager

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/14/2021 8:14:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Yaris [jason.yaris]	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support of HCR 59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy as a roadmap to move towards no new hepatitis A, B or C infections in Hawaii and to increase access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C.

Hawaii is the first state in the county to have its elimination strategy encompass hepatitis A, B and C and given our very high rates of liver cancer (because of high rates of hepatitis), I applaud this strategy to make our communities healthier and stronger.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/14/2021 8:17:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cindy Nawilis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and all other WAm committee members,

I am writing in support of bill HCR59 HD1, which seeks to eliminate viral hepatitis by implementing a collaborative strategy across public and private stakeholders. This is an important public health goal that will bolster other social initiatives, such as tackling issues around houselessness. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a testimony.

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/14/2021 8:37:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anika Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support of HCR 59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy as a roadmap to move towards no new hepatitis A, B or C infections in Hawaii and to increase access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C.

As a result to Hawaii's high rates of hepatitis, a large portion of our community also suffer from liver cancer. The elimination strateget put forth to combat Hepatitis A, B, and C is curicual for our community to lvie healthier lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/14/2021 9:39:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Beatrice Zovich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support of HCR 59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy as a roadmap to move towards no new hepatitis A, B or C infections in Hawaii and to increase access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C.

Hawaii is the first state in the county to have its elimination strategy encompass hepatitis A, B and C and given our very high rates of liver cancer (because of high rates of hepatitis), I applaud this strategy to make our communities healthier and stronger.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/14/2021 10:37:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Staley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HCR 59, HD 1, which recognizes and supports ongoing collaborative efforts to implement a statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis A, B, & C in Hawai'i. There are up to 63,000 people in Hawai'i possibly affected with hepatitis B or C, contributing to one of the highest rates of the liver cancer in the nation. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/14/2021 11:49:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Tan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support of HCR 59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy as a roadmap to move towards no new hepatitis A, B or C infections in Hawaii and to increase access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C.

Hawaii is the first state in the county to have its elimination strategy encompass hepatitis A, B and C and given our very high rates of liver cancer (because of high rates of hepatitis), I applaud this strategy to make our communities healthier and stronger.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HCR-59-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/14/2021 2:31:10 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/15/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Bumgardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support of HCR 59 which highlights the Hep Free 2030 elimination strategy as a roadmap to move towards no new hepatitis A, B or C infections in Hawaii and to increase access to testing and care for those living with hepatitis B and/or C.

I have had the great privilege of working with Hep Free Hawaii and patients living with chronic hepatitis C infection in the past several years. We have an unprecedented opportunity to completely eradicate these infectious sources of liver disease in our community. HCR59 gives strength and momentum to the efforts currently underway in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dr. Melissa Bumgardner, Director of Pharmacy Services, West Hawaii Community Health Center