



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President
Hawai'i Community Foundation

Re: Testimony for HCR84/HR72

Relating to a Working Group to Develop a Public-Private Partnership Model to Prepare For Hawaii's
Post-Pandemic Recovery

Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Place: Via Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli and members of the Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness Committee,

My name is Micah Kane, President & CEO of the Hawai'i Community Foundation ("HCF"). I am submitting this testimony on HCR84 and HR72 that requests HCF to convene a working group to develop a public-private partnership model to prepare for Hawai'i's post-pandemic recovery. We are excited by the opportunity to be a part of the effort to address the challenge being recognized by the resolutions.

While we will not restate all of the impacts that our state felt during 2020, we note that our HCF team dedicated a significant amount of work to help address the many needs that arose because of the impacts of COVID-19 on our statewide communities and economies. Many of these efforts were public-private partnerships as we worked with State and County Governments in distributing moneys, resources and overall assistance across the islands. We were also able to participate in many partnerships that brought government, private sector, non-profits, unions, and the philanthropic community together for relief efforts. During that time, we also watched the success that the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness, as it brought together key stakeholders to develop the actions required to address the unique needs that were arising on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

As we began 2021, we were able to take a breath and look at the sprint we were all running throughout 2020. We recognized that much of the collective effort, undertaken by all sectors of our community, was "giving fish" as opposed to "teaching to fish", because as we reacted to the reality we faced, that is what was necessary. Now is the time and opportunity for all of us, as a collective community, to find the models that will "teach ourselves to fish" for the future success we all desire for our state.

At HCF, we have focused on the CHANGE Framework, which, simply put, is to create system changes that address inequities within our society through collaborative efforts. We state it as an effort to “create a shared movement to solve Hawai’i’s greatest challenges” and to use data to guide networks of people to “align their efforts around shared goals, so that together, their collective actions create a thriving Hawai’i.” It is with this construct that we see significant value in gathering a set of stakeholders to develop models around how we collectively work to prepare our State for the post-pandemic recovery.

We hope that HCF can serve as an objective convener for this effort, finding resources to lead the discussion in a similar means that we witnessed successes during the pandemic. As the impacts of the pandemic grew, people found a common desired outcome to solve community needs. We believe that this unity was a key factor in finding collective success. We foresee an opportunity to extend that commonality to engage in discussions about our State’s future, bringing together multiple sectors of our communities in a productive way.

At this point, we do not pre-suppose any ultimate outcome. That must come from group discussions. We at HCF are ready and willing to commit our time and resources to undertake the kind of endeavor called for in these resolutions. Because we foresee the opportunities for system changes in multiple sectors – from policy to operation practices – we believe this effort has the potential to develop models that will create a thriving Hawai’i.

Therefore, we thank you committee for considering HCR84 and HR72, and look forward to further discussion on the resolutions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.