



April 6, 2021

COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

Testimony SUPPORTING SCR 5

Aloha, Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and members of the Committee:

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i SUPPORTS SCR 5 recognizing the importance of quality data for better, fact-based policymaking in Hawai'i.

As you know, statistical data drives government resources and decision-making. Native Hawaiians still have many socio-economic issues and are in need of funding to address some of those problems, such as basic and higher education, affordable housing, health disparities, and the high cost of living. In trying to address systemic inequities, however, there continue to be substantial data gaps.

SCR 5 encourages state agencies and county departments to compile and share data, and to disaggregate groups such as Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. By disaggregating data, we can advocate for targeted policies and interventions that are appropriate to each sector, thus engaging in informed policymaking and interventions.

SCR 5 also establishes a task force to assess data collection and challenges, and report back to the Legislature. This would be a valuable step toward ensuring that government data collection is thorough, accurate, and useful for making decisions.

We encourage the passage of SCR 5.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Me ka mahalo nui,

JUANITA MAHIENAENA BROWN KAWAMOTO, Chair

Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



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: **SCR 5 – Recognizing the importance of 21st century data governance for fact-based policymaking**
Hawai'i State Capitol, via videoconference, room 309
April 6, 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 SCR 5. 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.

Without good data, we can't make good policy. The recent *Data Justice* report¹ 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 this resolution.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director, Research and Economic Policy

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



'Ahahui o nā Kauka

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SCR5

Recognizing the Importance of 21st Century Data Governance For Fact-Based Policymaking

House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

April 6, 2021 at 10:30 am

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and Members of the House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness,

My name is Martina Kamaka and I am the Secretary for the 'Ahahui o nā Kauka (Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians). I am submitting testimony in **SUPPORT** of this measure. COVID-19 has adversely impacted our NHPI communities throughout the country with NHPI having the highest case rates in several states. Sadly, it took a while for NHPI communities to realize that we were being impacted disproportionately by COVID-19 as there was a lack of disaggregated data nationwide. Having good disaggregated data would have allowed us to respond quicker and more efficiently in addressing this disparate COVID-19 impact on our NHPI communities.

We have been active partners with the NHPI 3R Team (Covid Response, Recovery and Resiliency) and through this partnership we have been able to witness how much can be accomplished with good communication and the timely sharing of critical data. Sadly, we were also able to see the challenges around inconsistent, nonstandardized collection, processing, retention and sharing of data. It took a pandemic to get some of the organizations to start talking to each other. There are many more agencies and organizations that do not belong to our network and have data that could help us or need the data that we have. There are too many silos. We were not prepared to deal with this pandemic and we need to take the lessons learned to be better prepared for what is coming next.

The resolution is a good first step in trying to understand and establish a system that would allow effective data sharing between organizations and agencies that will help us not only deal with the current pandemic but with future challenges. We urge the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



SCR5

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

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

Apelila 6, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Lumi 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SCR5, 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.

SCR5 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** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.



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: April 6, 2021

Re: Support for SCR5: 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 SCR5, 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. As more processes are digitized, the scope and volume of data generated offer significant opportunities of improvement. Data governance will ensure disaggregated data is accessible and protected, leading to improved support and better data-driven decision making. 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.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass SCR5. Thank you for allowing us to testify on this measure.

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.

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 1:51:18 PM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Kalili	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

TESTIMONY ON SCR 5 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA GOVERNANCE FOR FACT-BASED POLICYMAKING.

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

APRIL 6, 2021
Time: 10:30pm
Virtual

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli and members of the House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness, **my name is Lilinoe Kauahikaua, I am a Masters of Social Work Candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and the co-author of a recent report released by the Hawaii Budget and Policy Center on Data Justice: About us, By us, For us, and I am here today to support SCR 5 Recognizing the importance of 21st Century Data Governance for Fact-Based Policy Making.**

State agencies run public programs that are vital toward helping disenfranchised Native Hawaiians remain healthy, be productive, and become self-reliant. We expect these agencies to be good stewards of public funds, wisely focusing their resources and expertise to get the best results. However, how do we know they are? Without disaggregated data, we have no way of knowing if public funds are being used to benefit the NH pop.

The State Constitution acknowledges the special status of Native Hawaiians where it recognizes the State's continuing obligation to uphold the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 and establishes the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Native Hawaiians, as the indigenous people of the land currently occupied by the State of Hawai'i, deserve special consideration by both the federal and state governments. The government additionally has an ethical responsibility to acknowledge and address the effects of colonization, the overthrow, and illegal occupation.

There are large differences in the history, life experiences and viewpoints among all ethnic groups. So, Lumping NH, OPI, and even sometimes Asians does not account for the complex nuance needed in addressing each of these marginalized populations, and effectively sends a message that NH are invisible, which perpetuates continued marginalization

Native Hawaiians make up 21 percent of the overall state population making us one of Hawai'i's five largest ethnic groups. Additionally, more than 34 percent of Hawai'i's children under the age of 18 are Native Hawaiian.

The overall lack of disaggregated data collection across all of the state agencies is concerning Act 155 (HRS 226-20) in which the legislature codified a commitment to reduce health disparities for Native Hawaiians and other groups by updating the Hawai'i State Planning Act,

made it state policy to eliminate “health disparities by identifying and addressing social determinants of health” in order to improve the health and wellbeing of Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. How then, are these policies being adhered to, if many agencies are not collecting this data?

Without comprehensive and detailed data, our state agencies cannot truly evaluate and improve their services for the populations they serve. To address these failings, **we must support SCR 5** as a movement toward disaggregation, decolonization, and consultation with Native Hawaiians as agents of our own data and move toward Indigenous data governance.

Lilinoe Kauahikaua
Lkauahik@hawaii.edu

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 2:26:53 PM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linn Merlitti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 2:35:49 PM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Mahalo.

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 2:39:54 PM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luukia Archer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to PASS SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 9:11:24 PM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keoki Faria	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of SCR5, a measure in OHA's 2021 Legislative Package

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 9:37:11 PM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josh & Kanani DeLary	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 6:17:15 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hardy Spoehr	Spoehr Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

April 3, 2021

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of SCR 5.

Back in 1997, OMB Revised Standards 15 for reporting data relating to racial and ethnic data to the federal government eliminated the then identifier Asian Pacific Islander (API) and replaced it with a disaggregated Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOP) and a separate Asian (A) and/or Asian American (AA) category. Even though today the ACA (federal law) requires such reporting from all such entities receiving federal dollars (States, Counties, Cities and non-government organizations including research organizations), this continues to be a challenge for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander organizations as some of these entities either still use the illegal API identifier or no racial identifier at all. Hawai'i's own Department of Health was only recently not in compliance with this requirement in its reporting of COVID data.

So to the point of this legislation – it's important to note why Native Hawaiians are separately identified from Other Pacific Islanders in the NHOP category despite the fact that Native Hawaiians are culturally Pacific Islanders. The major reason for distinctly separating Native Hawaiians from Other Pacific Islanders is that the status of Native Hawaiians is different from that of Other Pacific Islanders. Native Hawaiians are American citizens; Indigenous Peoples to what now is a state in the United States fabric. Other Pacific Islanders are not. They may be American Nationals from such islands as American Samoa or from territories of the United States such as Guam and American Samoa or from Micronesia which is an assortment of independent nations (making them immigrants) and/or those island states with populations which have a special relationship with the United States through compacts, etc. Some Micronesians that have treaties with the US are considered migrants and not immigrants. Migrant status was part of the compact treaty which is why they can move freely between their countries and US. Other Pacific Islanders resident in Hawai'i from other independent nations in the Pacific including Fijians, Samoans, French Polynesians, New Zealand Maori, Cook Islanders, etc. are considered immigrants to the United States.

Thus, it's critically important for us in Hawai'i to disaggregate NHOP data not only for the sake of the individuals involved but equally importantly for those service providers

and nations providing support for their people here in Hawai`i. And, more importantly, for providing services to the first peoples of our islands; our Native Hawaiians.

1. you for the opportunity of providing this testimony.

Hardy Spoehr, President

Spoehr Foundation

1833 Vancouver Place

Honolulu, Hawai`i 96822

(808)944-8601

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 11:19:18 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha PDP Committee,

My name is Thaddeus Pham (he/him), and I strongly support SCR5, which seeks to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) peoples.

SCR5 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 NHPs 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 NHPs, masking systemic injustices impacting these peoples today.

SCR5 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 SCR5.

Sincerely,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

Testimony of Tiana Igarashi
MSW Student, University of Hawai'i Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health

Testimony in **Strong Support** of SCR5:
Recognizing the Importance of 21st Century Data Governance for Fact-Based Policymaking

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 10:30 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol Conference Room 309
Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli, and members of the Committee:

My name is Tiana Igarashi and I am testifying in **strong support** of SCR5 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Tiana Igarashi



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR5

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE STACELYNN E.M. ELI, VICE-CHAIR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Hearing Date: April 6, 2021 Room Number: 309

To: Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli, and Members of the Committee
From: Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair and Pat McManaman, Co-Chair

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SCR 5**. Disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (NHPI) and Asian populations is important for NHPI, immigrant communities, and for Hawai'i as a whole.¹ SCR 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 to provide care for all Hawai'i's residents in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

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

¹ Covid-19 in Hawai'i: Addressing Health Equity in Diverse Populations, March 16, 2021 at <https://hawaiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COVID-19-Race-Ethnicity-Equity-Report.pdf>

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 2:07:48 PM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leialoha K.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 9:05:10 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Continue to support. Disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (NHPI), immigrants, and other race and ethnic groups is a critical step forward to assure health equity and informed, data-driven decision-making in our state.

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 10:00:04 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristy Lam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kristy

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 10:52:39 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janette Lee	OHA	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Thank you

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 11:47:58 PM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SCR5 - 21st Century Data Governance for Fact-Based Policymaking. My name is Gloria Palma, 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.

SCR5 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 NHPs 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 NHPs, masking systemic injustices impacting these peoples today.

SCR5 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 SCR5.

Sincerely,

Gloria Palma

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 7:58:59 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna K Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

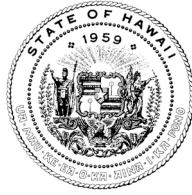
I am a Native Hawaiian from the island of Kauai.

I strongly **SUPPORT** SCR5, 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.

It is a step towards assessing and modernizing governmental data collection, processing, retention, and sharing practices to facilitate fact-based policymaking and ensuring that policymaking for COVID-19 recovery efforts are based upon community-specific data that is timely, clear, and consistent.

I respectfully ask the Committee to **PASS** SCR5.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER RESPONSE
Tuesday, April 6, 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5
RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA GOVERNANCE FOR
FACT-BASED POLICYMAKING.

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

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, which establishes 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.

ETS looks forward to working collaboratively with members of this task force.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 8:48:06 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Castanera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR5

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE STACELYNN E.M. ELI, VICE-CHAIR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Hearing Date: April 6, 2021 Room Number: 309

To: Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli, and Members of the Committee
From: Darrin Sato, IAC Chair and Terrina Wong, IAC Co-Chair

The InterAgency Council for Immigrants and Refugees (IAC) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SCR 5**. The IAC is comprised of close to 40 agencies, both public and non-profit entities whose purpose is to promote justice and fairness for immigrants and refugees by: 1) serving as a planning and coordinating council to secure decent living, economic, educational, social, and other conditions conducive to the welfare of the immigrant and refugee community through the coordination and planning of services which maximize resources, avoid duplication, and meet the needs of immigrants and refugees, 2) educating the public on behalf of the needs of immigrants and refugees, and 3) serving as a clearinghouse for information on programs and services pertaining to immigrants and refugees.

Disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (NHPI) and Asian populations is important for NHPI, immigrant communities, and for Hawai'i as a whole.¹ SCR 5 is a critical step forward to assure health equity and informed, data-driven decision-making in our state. Our work is contingent upon solid data for all our targeted population, including NHPI sectors, and not having disaggregated NHPI data without consistent data governance practices directly affects our ability to find funding to support the disenfranchised with programs that will directly benefit the NHPI populations.

Of note:

- Disaggregated NHPI data is needed to best inform our COVID-19 response and recovery.
- Without disaggregated NHPI data, NHPI continue to be silenced and invisible.
- Improved data governance protocols are needed with regards to how data is collected, processed, retained, and shared.

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

¹ Covid-19 in Hawai'i: Addressing Health Equity in Diverse Populations, March 16, 2021 at <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COVID-19-Race-Ethnicity-Equity-Report.pdf>

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 to provide care for all Hawai'i's residents in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

On behalf of IAC, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 9:27:02 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terina Fa'agau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and Members of the House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SCR5 - 21st Century Data Governance for Fact-Based Policymaking. 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.

SCR5 would recognize the importance of data governance and facilitating fact-based policymaking in the 21st century. The current lack of data on NHPs 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 NHPs, masking systemic injustices impacting these peoples today.

SCR5 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 SCR5.

Sincerely,

Terina Fa'agau

HEARING OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS

ATTN: CHAIRS LINDA ICHIYAMA
& VICE CHAIR GILBERT STACELYNN K.M. ELI

Testimony in **Strong Support** of SCR5:

Recognizing the Importance of 21st Century Data Governance for Fact-Based Policymaking

April 6, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness,

My name is Alexa Deike and I am testifying in **strong support** of SCR5. I am a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. 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.

SCR5 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 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.**

SCR5 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 time and consideration,

Alexa Deike

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 9:35:46 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lokahi

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

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

IN SUPPORT

**SCR 5 - RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA
GOVERNANCE FOR FACT-BASED POLICYMAKING**

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 10:30 AM, Room 309/Videoconference

Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

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Na Puuwai

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Executive Director

Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD

Papa Ola Lōkahi is the Native Hawaiian Health Board responsible with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians and their families, which we do through public health policy and strategic partnerships. Only accurate, disaggregated data has enabled us to present the true picture of Hawaiian health status, thus enabling us to develop and implement the appropriate and acceptable programs and services throughout our communities.

Papa Ola Lōkahi and other partners around the United States and its jurisdictions worked closely with our congressional delegation in the 1990s, which led to the 1997 revision in Office of Management and Budget Circular 15 (OMB 15) recommending that federal agencies, offices and institutes disaggregate the collection and reporting of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders separately from that of Asian Americans.

On March 11, 2021, CDC's National Vital Statistics System released a [report](#) celebrating Hawai'i for having the nation's greatest life expectancy at 81 years (males at 78, females at 84). Yet, the Hawaii Health Survey, which disaggregates life expectancy by ethnicity, pinpoints life expectancy for Native Hawaiians (2010) at 76.6 years (males at 73.9 and females at 79.4). Celebration to despair.

It is no wonder that only 8% of vaccinations of those over 70 years are Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders (in aggregate).

Recently, POL partnered with the Hawai'i Budget & Policy Center to assess how data is collected and how funding brought into the State for Native Hawaiians was allocated. The findings, in a joint report entitled [Data Justice: About Us, By Us, For Us](#), highlights a deficiency in standardization of race/ethnicity data across the State departments, although promising examples exist and State units generally appear open to adopting governance protocols. This report, released in January 2021, also underscores a lack of accountability for funds that are brought into the State using Native Hawaiian data.

The resolution's call for the Departments of Health, Labor and Industrial Relations, Human Services, Judiciary, and county police departments to compile and share existing and disaggregated data on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders is key to greater understanding of health, economic and many social issues across the lifespan.

We strongly support the establishment of a Task Force on 21st Century Data Governance, which we believe will strengthen the State's overall data infrastructure to better serve the public.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support this measure.



COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 Time: 10:30am Place: Via Videoconference

Testimony of Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna

SCR 5 – RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA GOVERNANCE FOR FACT-BASED POLICY MAKING. **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha,

SCR 5 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.

SCR 5 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. Data gaps that currently exist have disproportionately negatively impacted Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. SCR 5 will address these gaps.

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna is in strong support of these policies and procedures proposed in this measure and urge this Committee **to PASS SCR 5**. Mahalo.

Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR5
RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA GOVERNANCE
FOR FACT-BASED POLICYMAKING**

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE STACELYNN E.M. ELI, VICE-CHAIR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Hearing Date: 4/6/2021

Room Number: 309

Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights SUPPORTS SCR 5. Disaggregated data on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) populations is important for immigrant communities and for Hawai'i as a whole, and SCR 5 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

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.³ The Department of Human Services also saw an increase in demand for social

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 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/>.

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.⁴ 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.⁵ The only way to truly understand the problem is with greater and more transparent disaggregated data.

The importance of data disaggregation is well studied,⁶ and here in Hawai'i, while there are existing efforts at data disaggregation, they have not gone far enough or come fast enough. SCR 5 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. 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

⁴ 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/>.

⁵ 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>.

⁶ Victor Rubin, et. al., *Counting a Diverse Nation: Disaggregated Data on Race and Ethnicity to Advance a Culture of Health*, PolicyLink (2018).



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: April 6, 2021

Re: Support of SCR5: 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 SCR5.

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

The need for data disaggregation is not limited to the Department of Health but applies to all the agencies listed by SCR 5. First, many NHPI families were unable to access Unemployment Insurance at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations due to

language access, technology access, and even initial confusion about COFA eligibility.³ Second, although county law enforcement has repeatedly denied the existence of racial

¹ See, e.g., Anita Hofschnieder, *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 Hofschnieder, *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 Hofschnieder, *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 Anita Hofschnieder, *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 Hofschnieder, *Hawaii Updates Unemployment Application to Include Pacific Migrants*, Civil Beat, April 14, 2020, at



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disparity problems, the community has long shared stories of racial disparities in policing.⁴ 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.⁵

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. SCR 5 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 SCR5.

Dina Shek

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

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-updates-unemployment-application-to-include-pacific-migrants/>.

⁴ 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/>.

⁵ 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>.

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and Members of the House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SCR5 - 21st Century Data Governance for Fact-Based Policymaking. My name is Kevin Fernandez, 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.

SCR5 would recognize the importance of data governance and facilitating fact-based policymaking in the 21st century. 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.**

SCR5 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 SCR5.

Sincerely,

Kevin Fernandez



HAWAI'I COVID-19

Response Recovery Resilience

TEAM

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR5
RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA GOVERNANCE
FOR FACT-BASED POLICYMAKING**

House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

April 6, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Room 309/Videoconference

Aloha e Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and Members of the House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness:

The Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Resilience (NHPI 3R) Team **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SCR5, a critical measure and step toward ensuring that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders get the specific and data-informed relief that is desperately needed amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NHPI 3R Team was established in May 2020, in alignment with the national NHPI Response Team, to improve the collection and reporting of accurate data, identify and lend support to initiatives across the Hawaiian Islands working to address COVID-19 among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and unify to establish a presence in the decision-making processes and policies that impact our communities. The NHPI 3R Team is a collective of more than sixty organizations that directly serve in Hawai'i's Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI)¹ communities, which comprise at least twenty-five percent of the population of the State of Hawai'i². For more than a year, team stakeholders have identified priorities around COVID-19 related policies, social services, outreach and communications, research and other activities within the State and counties. The NHPI 3R Team has worked in collaboration with more than 60 agencies, organizations and offices throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to be responsive to the needs of Hawai'i's NHPI communities that have been disproportionately impacted by this pandemic.

One of the greatest successes throughout the pandemic has been the disaggregated collection and reporting of COVID-19 infection rates for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and predominant Asian American groups in Hawai'i. Hawai'i remains the only state that disaggregates its COVID-19

¹ We define "Native Hawaiian" using the terminology from the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, which indicates that Native Hawaiians are a "distinct and unique indigenous people with a historical continuity to the original inhabitants of the Hawaiian archipelago whose society was organized as a Nation prior to the arrival of the first nonindigenous people in 1778" (42 USC § 11701(1)) and Pacific Islanders as the distinct and unique indigenous peoples descended from the original inhabitants of the nations within Oceania. Together, "Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander" or "NHPI" refers to dozens of distinct peoples, languages, and cultures, all of which we recognize as important voices.

² Critical and important reference is due to recognizing, acknowledging, and acting on the State of Hawai'i's, and more broadly the United States of America's, promises made to the NHPI communities. Our historical trauma as being part of the State of Hawai'i and the United State of America, has involved illegal annexation, an attempt at repatriation and to make up for wrongdoings done onto our NHPI communities. In light of this history, this further confirms the need for immediate and appropriate action to protect our NHPI communities and all of Hawai'i.

Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander



HAWAI'I COVID-19

Response Recovery Resilience

TEAM

data thus. The disaggregation of Pacific Islander data from that of Native Hawaiians has been extremely useful in identifying where outreach and program efforts have been most needed. This measure will assure data collection, analysis and reporting will be standardized, accurate and effective in assuring communities that are disproportionately impacted are equitably represented and engaged in generating solutions to ensure the social determinants of health³ are an ongoing priority.

Adequately serving Hawai'i's NHPI communities necessitates that State agencies and their departments collect and use disaggregated data to inform the creation of and funding for the policies and programs they implement. Although the Office of Management and Budget's Statistic Policy Directive No. 15 (OMB-15, 1997 revision) establishes federal standards that group Polynesians, Micronesians, and Melanesians together as "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander," the State of Hawai'i may create additional subcategories that further disaggregate data. Absent the collection and reporting of specific data on NHPIs, agencies' efforts to address systemic inequalities and masking challenges faced by distinct NHPI groups in areas such as employment, education, domestic violence, and incarceration are hindered.

SCR5 seeks to address longstanding data challenges that impact NHPIs by: (1) recognizing the importance of detailed and disaggregated data in pandemic response and recovery efforts; (2) urging the State and its departments to compile and share existing and disaggregated data and to develop procedures and agreements for improving data governance; and (3) urging the Governor to establish a Task Force on 21st Century Data Governance to assess the current data collection procedures, needs, and challenges. Many of the member organizations in the NHPI 3R collective stand ready and willing to serve in developing procedures and agreements for improving data practices, governance, and sharing with respect to Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other relevant demographics.

This resolution is an important step towards ensuring that policymaking for COVID-19 recovery efforts is 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.

Mahalo for your leadership and the opportunity to testify on necessary measure.

³ Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 226-20. State of Hawai'i. Available at https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/V_ol04_Ch0201-0257/HRS0226/HRS_0226-0020.htm



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House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness
April 6, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Room 309/Videoconference

Aloha e Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and Members of the House Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness:

The above-named organizations **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SCR5, a critical measure and step toward ensuring that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (“NHPIs”) get the specific and data-informed relief that they desperately need amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adequately serving Hawai‘i’s NHPI communities necessitates that State agencies and their departments collect and use disaggregated data to inform the creation of and funding for the policies and programs they implement. Although 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,” the State of Hawai‘i may create additional subcategories that further disaggregate data. The State, however, has historically failed to collect specific data on NHPIs, hindering agencies’ efforts to

address systemic inequalities and masking challenges faced by distinct NHPI groups in areas such as employment, education, domestic violence, and incarceration.

SCR5 seeks to address longstanding data challenges that impact NHPIs by: (1) recognizing the importance of detailed and disaggregated data in pandemic response and recovery efforts; (2) urging the State and its departments to compile and share existing and disaggregated data and to develop procedures and agreements for improving data governance; and (3) urging the Governor to establish a Task Force on 21st Century Data Governance to assess the current data collection procedures, needs, and challenges. In addition to urging certain State departments to compile and share existing disaggregated Data on NHPIs, this resolution urges those departments to work with OHA and the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Response, Recovery, and Resiliency Team to develop procedures and agreements for improving data practices, governance, and sharing with respect to Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other relevant demographics.

This resolution is an important step towards ensuring that policymaking for COVID-19 recovery efforts is 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this necessary measure.

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 2:42:02 PM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noalani Nakasone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness,

I, STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Mahalo nui loa,

Noalani Nakasone

Kaua`i Resident

SCR-5

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 8:18:46 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori Feiteira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR5, 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.

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 decision-making for generations to come.

Therefore, based on the foregoing reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SCR5. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

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

In Support of SCR5 – RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA GOVERNANCE FOR FACT-BASED POLICYMAKING.

Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 10:30 AM, Via Videoconference

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

We write in **SUPPORT** of SCR5.

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 SCR5 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

SCR5 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

SCR5 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.](#)" 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 SCR5'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 SCR5** to address our immediate public health emergency, as well as to prepare for the future. Detailed data, especially disaggregated racial/ethnic data, can help sculpt targeted services. With clear data, we can allocate time and resources to those most impacted by services, reducing systemic needs in the long run.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.