



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

LATE

Papa Ola Lokahi
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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.

Board of Directors Member Organizations

Hoola Lahui Hawaii

Hui No Ke Ola Pono

Hui Malama Ola Na O'iwi

ALU LIKE

Ke Ola Mamo

E Ola Mau

University of Hawaii

Hawaii State Department of Health

Na Puuwai

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Executive Director

Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair
Sen. Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice-Chair

IN OPPOSITION

SR149 / SCR 184 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO PRODUCE AN INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT BY THE STATE OF HAWAII IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION.

Monday, March 29, 2021, 3:10 PM, CR 224 & Videoconference

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board established in 1988 through the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Act (Title 42 USC 122), **OPPOSES** SR 149 / SCR 184, which convenes a task force that is resolved to “produce an integrated strategic plan that is designed to achieve the long-term objective of reaffirming Hawaii as the political, economic, environmental, sociological, and technological epicenter for regional engagement in the Pacific Islands region.”

As you are aware, Papa Ola Lōkahi is firmly committed to the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and their families in Hawai'i and across the continental United States. While there are many issues within this resolution that intersect with our purpose, this measure extends into jurisdictions and topic areas – such as economic development and migration – that are outside the focus of Papa Ola Lōkahi.

We appreciate your confidence in Papa Ola Lōkahi, and would be happy to recommend other agencies and non-governmental organizations that are appropriately well-suited to the work of the proposed planning group.

Papa Ola Lōkahi urges the legislature to meet the needs of the public that best serve the immediate impacts from the current pandemic. We encourage prioritizing needs that address social determinants of health (such as stable employment, ability to afford mortgage or rent payments, educational resources from preschool to university, food access and more) and immediate clinical needs (such as COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and most recently vaccination distribution). We are also concerned with health equity action to ensure that those facing the highest risk are able to receive appropriate resources in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.