



1050 Queen Street, Suite 100, Honolulu, HI 96814

Telephone: 808.206.8446 - Email: info@kanuhawaii.org - <http://www.KanuHawaii.org>

Date: 03/23/2021

Time: 10:40 AM

Location: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 329

Committee(s): CAI

Title of Bill: HCR107 & HR103

Dear Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Tam and Committee Members :

Kanu Hawaii is providing testimony in SUPPORT of HCR107 & HR103 RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER WEEK IN HAWAII.

This resolution seeks to recognize Volunteer Week in the State of Hawaii for the year 2022. The dates mirror the dates of National Volunteer Week. Although National Volunteer Week has been celebrated every year since 1974 by Presidential Proclamation, Hawaii only officially recognized the week beginning in 2018 when the legislature passed HCR153_SD1.

Through the support of that resolution in 2018, the community held over 60 events across 5 islands. Now, in its fifth year, Volunteer Week in Hawaii 2022 is being celebrated by over 200 organizations hosting over 250 events across 6 islands engaging thousands of volunteers.

2018 was also a year of natural disasters across Hawaii. Proactively engaging community to volunteer during blue sky times will inevitably result in strength of response during gray skies. And as the data has shown us, the number one determining factor of a community's ability to respond and recover from a natural disaster is the health of its social links and strength of community relationships.

Volunteer Week Hawaii is the largest volunteer focused campaign in Hawaii and the largest state level celebration of National Volunteer Week in the United States. With the passage of HCR107 & HR103 and continued recognition of Volunteer Week in Hawaii, we hope to increase the level of volunteer engagement and capacity building for Hawaii's population, including its non-profits, community organizations, and schools in the years to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keone Kealoha", written in a cursive style.

Keone Kealoha
Executive Director, Kanu Hawaii