

**Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander
HAWAI'I COVID-19 TEAM**
Response. Recovery. Resilience.



**SUPPORT for SCR 127, HCR 89, and HR 83
“URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
EMPLOY THE TEAM 6B CONTRACT TRACING
TEAM AS PERMANENT STAFF AND HIRE OTHER
MEMBERS FROM THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND
PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES.”**

House Committee on Health, Human Services, &
Homelessness
Chair Yamane and Vice-Chair Tam
Tuesday, March 29, 2022
CR329 & Via Video Conference

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, and Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness,

As a coalition of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander organizations, the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander COVID-19 Hawai'i Response, Recovery, and Resilience (NHPI 3R) Team testifies in **SUPPORT of SCR 127, HCR 89, and HR 83**, which urges the Department of Health to employ the Team 6B contact tracing team as permanent staff and hire other members from the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities to address health inequities. Timely implementation of these and other actions is crucial to expand and deepen public health equity and resilience in the State of Hawai'i.

In spring 2020, the disparity in COVID-19 cases for Pacific Islanders was reported to community leaders, who began to call for action. At that time, the public health response in Hawai'i was focused on supporting the general public through the statewide shutdown. Later, CivilBeat reported that [while just 4% of the state population, Pacific Islanders comprised 30% of cases](#). Due to the lack of data disaggregation and infrastructure, state agencies had a limited understanding of COVID-19 impacts on race/ethnicity groups, as aggregated data could not identify specific COVID-19 disease trends among different racial groups such as NHPI. Community advocacy and partnerships with State agencies led to the disaggregation of COVID-19 data and the formation of the Pacific Islander contract tracing team, Team 6B, within the Department of Health. Team 6B provided critical culturally appropriate outreach and we believe their efforts in reaching out to the severely impacted Pacific Islander community contributed to the decrease in COVID-19 disparities in Pacific Islander communities.

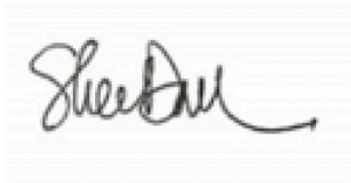
Throughout the pandemic, Team 6B has demonstrated that they are well-positioned in Hawai'i communities and capable of performing to State standards. We call for the Legislature to support the resolutions that urge their permanent employment because the use of a culturally and linguistically tailored approach has been needed in State engagements with the PI community and public health outreach since before the pandemic. It would be a missed opportunity in equity if the members of Team 6B, who are from the same communities they work to serve, were not provided the option to become permanent State employees. Further, failing to provide this opportunity to the members of Team 6B is a message to communities that the State – despite the clear data on COVID-19 disparities – does not seek to draw upon the successes of Team 6B to improve community resilience into the future.

The NHPI 3R Team continues to stand in support of the measures that build health equity for NHPI through direct vehicles such as the proposed Office of Health Equity (SB 2031)

or the system-wide changes needed to empower equity work, like the improvement of data governance through the establishment of a State Chief Data Officer (HB 1885). The lessons learned over the past two years will be repeated in future public health issues if leaders do not act to improve the overwhelmed, underinformed, and under capacity systems. Community-driven advocacy, including that of the NHPI 3R Team, catalyzed the discourse that eventually led to the policy change around the disaggregation of NHPI data, identification of specific communities facing disparity in COVID-19, and actions to respond to COVID-19 in those communities. Continued collaboration to ensure that these gains are not lost is necessary so that the partnerships and work built can extend to the chronic inequities facing NHPI.

The pandemic effects on health and the social determinants of health have yet to be fully understood. Measures like SCR 127/HCR 89/HR 83 and others work to change the context so that State capacity and effectiveness improve. Offering permanent employment to Team 6B, developing and utilizing a diverse hiring plan, and hiring staff reflective of NHPI communities are actions that can be taken to help increase engagement and decrease disparity. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and the continued commitment to Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders as we navigate together. The NHPI 3R Team can be contacted via email at nhpicovid@papaolalokahi.org.

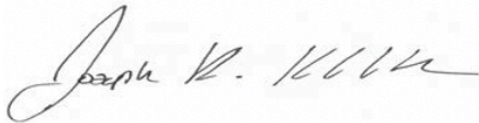
Respectfully,



Sheri Daniels, Native Hawaiian Co-Lead



Josie Howard, Pacific Islander Co-Lead



Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, Native Hawaiian Co-Lead



Felea'i Tau, Pacific Islander Co-Lead

HCR-89

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:08:18 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/29/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philios Uruman	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

HCR-89

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:02:06 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/29/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimaile Barrett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly SUPPORT HCR 89.

Far too many of our Pacific community were affected by COVID-19 and were not receiving clear directives or education concerning what needed to be done and how in way that was linguistically appropriate or culturally appropriate. Along with this resources such as food and shelter were not being asked for or given. This unfortunately, led to more positive cases within multi-generational homes, unnecessary and burdensome ticketing as family members had to leave their home in order to feed their families, public exposure to the virus, and an over-representation of our Pacific community in deaths.

Team 6B has met all these challenges and continues to be one of the most utilized contact investigation team. They have shown that they are not only an emergency response team but are also an effective team whose daily presence has made an impact that can be gauged in the data collected. They are the necessary bridge to our communities and their presence makes a difference in the public health disparities suffered by our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

I STRONGLY URGE the Department of Health to employ the Team 6B Contact Tracing Team as permanent staff and SUPPORT the hire of other members from the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities in an effort to address the health inequities that exist and create better access to culturally relevant programs for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Mahalo,

Leimaile Barrett

HCR-89

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 1:06:33 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/29/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Mawyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The HI DOH's efforts to develop, maintain, and advance the technical and human resources to contribute to the wellbeing and health equity needs of the complexly diversity of Pacific Islander communities in Hawai'i should be applauded and supported with continuing funding. Because of the continuing dynamics and impacts of the ongoing covid-pandemic, the potential for new or emergent strains, alongside the persistence of non-pandemic health inequities and community needs, the work of Team 6B should be supported or, as possible, expanded to increase impacts, consolidate lessons learned, and lay the foundation for the future health of our state's significant Pacific Islander communities. Mahalo nui loa, Alexander Mawyer

Testimony in SUPPORT of HR 83/ HCR 89

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EMPLOY THE TEAM 6B CONTACT TRACING TEAM AS PERMANENT STAFF AND HIRE OTHER MEMBERS FROM THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH INEQUITIES THAT EXIST AND CREATE BETTER ACCESS TO CULTURALLY RELEVANT PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: 03/29/2022

Dear Committee Members,

I write to SUPPORT **HR 83/ HCR 89**, which urges the Department of Health to permanently employ Team 6B, a critical contact tracing team providing important outreach to Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities, and to hire other members from NHPI communities to address health inequities.

COVID-19 exposed systemic inequalities in our healthcare services, as NHPI communities were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and did not receive the care or public health information needed in the beginning. It has shown us that there needs to be more investment in programs by State agencies to bridge the cultural and language gaps that exist. **The ability to assist with limited resources especially when the demand with language barriers. As a Contact Tracer for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and Filipino (NHPI&F), I was asked numerous times to assist with the Samoan translation especially for the Samoan community. The respect for any language in the community is one main factor of success through growth, collaboration and togetherness.**

Team 6B was an innovative and successful effort to provide outreach and contact tracing to NHPI communities in-language, with culturally appropriate communication. **Through the NHPI&F Outreach, the risk of exposure as I as asked to track down the first suspected Omicron case from the community meant a great worth of communication after several attempts, in an effort to guide, and be of support regardless of their physical, mental, and emotional status, and providing housing and financial assistance to show comfort in making sure everyone is included.**

This resolution would not only allow Team 6B to continue the critical outreach and services they have provided for the past 2 years, but also encourage the hiring of more members from

underserved and marginalized communities, which is absolutely necessary in addressing the inequities that exist for these communities. Thus, I ask you to pass **HR 83/ HCR 89** from the Health, Human Services, and Homelessness Committee.

Thank you for your support and consideration,
Faauliulito Tuala-Tamaalelagi

HCR-89

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 4:35:50 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/29/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tercia L. Ku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution whote-heartedly.

Mahalo.

HCR-89

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:12:40 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/29/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaypee Carreon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HR 83/ HCR 89

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EMPLOY THE TEAM 6B CONTACT TRACING TEAM AS PERMANENT STAFF AND HIRE OTHER MEMBERS FROM THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH INEQUITIES THAT EXIST AND CREATE BETTER ACCESS TO CULTURALLY RELEVANT PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS.

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Hawaiians and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities, and to hire other members from NHPI communities to address health inequities.

COVID-19 exposed systemic inequalities in our healthcare services, as NHPI communities were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and did not receive the care or public health information needed in the beginning. It has shown us that there needs to be more investment in programs by State agencies to bridge the cultural and language gaps that exist. I was one of those individuals that were worried and scared during the beginning stage of this pandemic. I was worried and scared because of the existing problems that our community already facing even prior to the pandemic such as unequal access of healthcare and not enough healthcare services that will accommodate our NHPI communities. Thanks to those individuals who established TEAM 6B, a team that represents our people & the NHPI communities.

Team 6B was an innovative and successful effort to provide outreach and contact tracing to NHPI communities in-language, with culturally appropriate communication. Based on my experienced working as a Contact Tracer, most of the COVID-19 positive cases within our NHPI communities that we interviewed were afraid of infecting others due to lack of knowledge. Considering that large number of our positive cases need language assistance, TEAM 6B plays a major role when it comes to translating & providing information that will give them peace of mind during these tough times.

This resolution would not only allow Team 6B to continue the critical outreach and services they have provided for the past 2 years, but also encourage the hiring of more members from underserved and marginalized communities, which is absolutely necessary in addressing the inequities that exist for these communities. Thus, I ask you to pass **HR 83/ HCR 89** from the Health, Human Services, and Homelessness Committee.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Jaypee Carreon

HCR-89

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:43:37 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/29/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luke Kaakau Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I urge the members of the committee to please help pass this resolution to help aid our NHPI communities here in Hawaii. 6B contact tracing team has been an a pillar for the State as it has faced COVID-19 these past years. They have also been a voice and a lift of encouragement to the many marginalized communities in our Hawaii Nei. They've been a game changer and I am proud to call them both friends and co-workers alike.

This is our time to continually support our communities especially from a health and safety perspective. Please, I urge you all to see that this comes into fruition. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo nui,

Luke Kaakau Jr.

HCR-89

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 6:01:54 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/29/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Guillermo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HR 83/ HCR 89

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EMPLOY THE TEAM 6B CONTACT TRACING TEAM AS PERMANENT STAFF AND HIRE OTHER MEMBERS FROM THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH INEQUITIES THAT EXIST AND CREATE BETTER ACCESS TO CULTURALLY RELEVANT PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS.

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Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

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Dear Committee Members,

I write to SUPPORT HR 83/ HCR 89, which urges the Department of Health to permanently employ Team 6B, a critical contact tracing team providing important outreach to Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities, and to hire other members from NHPI communities to address health inequities.

COVID-19 exposed systemic inequalities in our healthcare services, as NHPI communities were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and did not receive the care or public health information needed in the beginning. It has shown us that there needs to be more investment in programs by State agencies to bridge the cultural and language gaps that exist. As a Contact Tracer, I've dealt with cases and people through a handful of variety. They've all shared their stories and experiences with the hardships and harm of COVID-19. However, the stories that have spoken the most powerful to me were the ones dealing with mothers and their children. Personally, I am a mother that can relate to those parents that worry for their child's future. The amount of safety protocols and restrictions play a large part in our daily lives. I am afraid the upcoming generation won't receive a full experience of great milestones and activities during a regular childhood. It is disappointing to say no to my kids when they want to have fun but health issues are at risk. Unfortunately, we belong to those marginalized communities (Filipino, NHPI) that are experiencing inadequate and unequal access of health care services. I am thankful for the establishment of Team 6B because they play a major role in helping and representing my community.

Team 6B was an innovative and successful effort to provide outreach and contact tracing to NHPI communities in-language, with culturally appropriate communication. Working with Team 6B has gave me the opportunity to connect with several people. In specific, I was able to educate and bridge connections with people. My knowledge of the Filipino language has permitted me to bond with the community. My comprehension has allowed me to provide information about safety and several support services. Supplying care and compassion has also been an effect of being able to connect. On a more personal and heart touching level, I had the chance to comfort mothers in distress. Giving clear instructions on how to protect their children in home and in the community. This has issued them a lot of relief.

This resolution would not only allow Team 6B to continue the critical outreach and services they have provided for the past 2 years, but also encourage the hiring of more members from underserved and marginalized communities, which is absolutely necessary in addressing the inequities that exist for these communities. Thus, I ask you to pass HR 83/ HCR 89 from the Health, Human Services, and Homelessness Committee.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Elena Guillermo

HCR-89

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 7:33:05 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/29/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Patu Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

E ke kōmike hanohano, aloha nui ‘oukou:

Ke hā‘awi aku nei au i ko‘u mahalo nui i ka hui nāna e ho‘olauka‘i i nā papa hana no ke kūpale ‘ana i ka po‘e Hawai‘i a Pāsīfika mai nā hopena ‘ino o ka ma‘i kolona i loko o kēia wā ma‘i ahulau. Ke kākau nei ho‘i au me ke kākō‘o nui i ka hana a ia kime no ka paio ‘ana i ka pono o ka po‘e ‘ōiwi Hawai‘i a Pāsīfika, he mau lāhui i pā nui i nā ‘ano hopena like ‘ole o ia ma‘i ahulau. Inā ‘a‘ole loa‘a kēia kōmike, ‘a‘ole e holomua nui ka ho‘oka‘a‘ike ‘ana i ka po‘e ‘ōiwi o ka Pasīfika a ‘a‘ole pū e hiki ke lawelawe maika‘i ‘ia kēia kaiaulu. He nui ko lākou kōkua ma ka ho‘omākaukau ‘ana i nā ‘ano kumu waiwai, oki loa ma nā ‘ōlelo ‘ōiwi i mea e kōkua ‘ia ai nā kānaka i ka maopopo ‘ana i ka ma‘i ahulau.

No ia mau kumu e hāpai ‘ia ai ko‘u kākō‘o nui i kēia pila no ka mālama pa‘a ‘ia ‘ana o nā kūlana o ka ‘Āpana 6B.

Me ke kākō‘o nui,

John Patu, Jr.

Vae ane i le mamalu o le Komiti,

‘Ou te momoli atu la‘u fa‘afetai tele i le mamalu o le Vāega ‘o le 6B ‘olo‘o nafa nei ma le matāfaioi e lagolagoina tagatānu‘u o Hawai‘i ma le Pasefika ‘aemaise i le tau puipuia mai le a‘afia i le fa‘ama‘i oti ‘o le Koviti. ‘Ou te tūsia fo‘i lenei tusi ma lo‘u lagolago tele i le galuega a lenei vāega ‘auā lo lātou ‘ūmia ma le fa‘atinoina o le sini atū o la lātou matāgaluega, ‘o le fesoasoani ma le lagolagoina o tagata Hawai‘i ma tagata Pasefika e ala i le fa‘aavanoaina o puna‘oa a alagā‘oa ‘ese‘ese. ‘Ana leai lenei vāsega, ‘ua lē mafai ona aga‘i atu ‘i luma le tele o fuafuaga ma gaioga mo le tautua lelei lenei vāega o tagata Hawai‘i ma le Pasefika ‘olo‘o a‘afia tele i le ‘āuga o lenei gasegase, ‘aemaise lava ‘o o lātou ‘āiga.

‘O le ala lea ‘ou te matua‘i lagolago mālosiina ai lenei tulāfono ‘auā le fa‘amautūina o tofiga a le Vāega o le 6B ‘ina ‘ia mafai ona fa‘aauauina ai a lātou gāluega tāua.

Ma le fa‘aaloalo tele,

John Patu, Jr.

To the distinguished Committee:

I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude to the 6B contact tracing team for coordinated efforts to serve our committee during these past few years of the COVID-19 pandemic. I write in strong support of making their positions permanent in order to better serve our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, who have been disproportionately affected negatively by the impacts of the pandemic. Without their dedicated efforts, our communities would not have been able to have access all the resources and services. It is indispensable that we equipt the necessary providers with the resources needed to best serve our communities and better address the disparities we face, especially in drastically reducing the effects of this pandemic.

It is for these reasons that I would like to lend my full support behind making the Team 6B positions permanent.

Respectfully,

John Patu, Jr.

Testimony in SUPPORT of HR 83/ HCR 89

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EMPLOY THE TEAM 6B CONTACT TRACING TEAM AS PERMANENT STAFF AND HIRE OTHER MEMBERS FROM THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH INEQUITIES THAT EXIST AND CREATE BETTER ACCESS TO CULTURALLY RELEVANT PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS.

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COVID-19 exposed systemic inequalities in our healthcare services, as NHPI communities were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and did not receive the care or public health information needed in the beginning. It has shown us that there needs to be more investment in programs by State agencies to bridge the cultural and language gaps that exist. During the beginning of the pandemic, I, myself as a Pacific Islander had a lot of questions and nonstop hardships, which is also expected that most of the people in the NHPI communities will be going through the same hardships my family and I had. These hardships were mostly based on financial problems, healthcare services, education, religion, etc. For a year, I was one of them that was out of work but had responsibilities to stay home to take care of the kids, as they had to do Virtual Learning for their education and while doing these things daily, I was even more concerned as to what our next steps were. I started going online, watching news for any information or any updates that might help us survive the pandemic. As soon as I learned of a type of assistance, I would notify my family members, friends and then later, extended the help to the rest of our community. Our community may be small, but we always take care of each other when we are in a foreign place. With being unemployed, I had to file for unemployment as well, which we all can remember that back then, it was hard to understand, to complete filing and even to get through Unemployment line to speak with a representative. This was when I realized I needed to step up and see how else I can help my people during the pandemic, noticing that for our community, there needs to be someone out there understanding, relaying the message, and making sure our people are made aware of what was happening around them. I was able to get a

temporary job at The Legal Clinic in providing language assistance and helping people in the community signing up for financial assistance and other resources to help pay these people's bills, gift cards that can buy them groceries, and other necessities to keep them on their feet during the pandemic. While doing this job, unfortunately, I got infected with COVID-19 and had no idea whatsoever what to do. Once I started having the first symptom (mean headaches), I knew I had to send my kids to stay with my sister until I get better. My husband, being the main source of our household income, had to stay back and take care of me and then later was infected as well. We were both worried of our bills, but we know for sure that he was not supposed to go back to work, as he will likely spread the virus at the workplace. During our isolation, we got a call from a contact tracer from Department of Health and back then, both of us didn't really understand a lot about isolation, quarantine and other information regarding COVID-19 so we were very relieved to learn about them when that contact tracer called. We understood English and therefore, we were able to do our part, isolated ourselves properly until it was safe to go back to work without infecting others. However, the other person I was exposed to was from my community and her understanding of English was/is very low, which concludes that if she fully understood the isolation period or other information regarding COVID-19 that the contact tracer provided her with when she was in isolation, she would've stayed home, completed her isolation period and not infect others. The other issue with our isolation was getting the resources we needed, which we heard from our community that we can get them through We Are Oceania, a nonprofit public charity serving the Micronesian and Pacific Island communities. Once we called, we were able to request for resources to be delivered to us until we were done with isolation. We were so fortunate to be able to get the assistance from the contact tracer and also from WAO. I can only imagine the worse if we weren't made aware of all these important information and assistance that were available for us during the pandemic. From the contact tracer, we were also told to apply for rental assistance through Catholic Charity and others, which later, I referred other people in the community to apply for as they were recently infected, isolated, and were having financial issues as we did.

Team 6B was an innovative and successful effort to provide outreach and contact tracing to NHPI communities in-language, with culturally appropriate communication. Being a Team 6B contact tracer means a lot of things in our community and I learned that on my first week of training. According to my previous lead, Chantelle Matagi, NHPI Contact tracer stands for a caring family member or a friend that is there for his/her people no matter what. We were trained to take care of our cases as we would do to our own family members and friends. Our cases were always satisfied because one thing they noticed of our team was that we do daily follow ups with them and not just with the initial call, which was getting information or collecting data, but throughout their isolation period and/or until they meet the criteria to be released. We would do our best in understanding our cases before we work with them and as a NHPI, we can understand any other NHPIs. We're trained to gather information that the Department of Health needs from the cases and in return, we provide information regarding the cases' isolation/quarantine and also provide them with the resources they need. This team always went above and beyond for their community and that is what every community need: for someone to be there when they are confused, lost, etc. During the week, the NHPI team members would do calls to their cases and the close contacts, but during the weekends, when they should be resting, they would volunteer their precious time at the vaccination pods or other events that are also for the community. They are always out there informing people in the community about the vaccines and the importance

of getting vaccinated. We have had cases that require language assistance, which we are so grateful for that our team consists of those that speak variety of languages and can always assist when needed. Misunderstanding or lack of knowledge is likely the reason of the spread of the virus and that is why language assistance is very important. The Team 6B's performance has always been on point because it may be a job for some contact tracers, but for this team, it's like FAMILY, which always ensures us that the team will be successful no matter what and they should be given a permanent position at the Department of Health.

This resolution would not only allow Team 6B to continue the critical outreach and services they have provided for the past 2 years, but also encourage the hiring of more members from underserved and marginalized communities, which is absolutely necessary in addressing the inequities that exist for these communities. Thus, I ask you to pass **HR 83/ HCR 89** from the Health, Human Services, and Homelessness Committee.

Thank you for your support and consideration,
Kathleen Skilling