



**Testimony to the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, March 24, 2021; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0663, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE SOLEMN COVENANT OF THE STATES TO AWARD PRIZES FOR CURING DISEASES.

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0663, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1, RELATING TO THE SOLEMN COVENANT OF THE STATES TO AWARD PRIZES FOR CURING DISEASES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would require the Department of Health to establish a task force to study the feasibility of entering into the solemn covenant of the states to award prizes for curing diseases.

This bill would take effect on July 1, 2060, to facilitate further discussion.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The goal of medical research is to develop safe and effective methods to prevent, detect, diagnose, treat, and ultimately cure the collections of diseases known as cancer. The better we understand these diseases, the more progress we will make toward diminishing the tremendous human and economic tolls disease inflicts upon our citizenry.

By formally entering the compact of states to award prizes for the curing of diseases, the State of Hawaii is joining the larger community across the Nation that sees the value in incentivizing medical breakthroughs for the benefit of all humanity.

Accordingly, the HPCA wholeheartedly supports this important measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.