



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 759 S.D. 2
RELATING TO HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: 03/17/23

Room Number: CR 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed measure appropriates funds out of the general revenues of the
2 State for fiscal year 2023-2024 and fiscal year 2024-2025 to create a permanent full-time equivalent
3 (1.0 FTE) Program Specialist IV and requires the Department of Health (DOH), Office of Primary
4 Care and Rural Health (OPCRH), to oversee and support community efforts to collaboratively
5 address the health and wellness needs of the State's most underserved rural residents and facilitate
6 discussions between key community health and social service organizations to develop plans to
7 address community needs highlighted by the Access to Care (ATC) needs assessment. The
8 Department defers to the Governor's Executive Biennium Budget Request for appropriation
9 priorities.

10 **Department Testimony:** The DOH supports this measure and OPCRH will maintain its supportive
11 role to rural counties across the state as they develop their own plans to address their most profound
12 needs from the ATC needs assessment. The DOH appreciates the funds and establishment of a
13 permanent full-time position to oversee the development of community plans and to coordinate
14 efforts across departments and nonprofit community partners. The current OPCRH staff and
15 programs are funded through specific federal project grants. These federal grants generally do not
16 allow the OPCRH staff to work on projects that are outside the terms and conditions of the grant.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

18 **Offered Amendments:** None



SB759 SD2
RELATING TO HEALTH
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

March 17, 2023

9:00 AM

Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB759 SD2, which would require the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health to establish and administer a pilot program to collaboratively address the health and wellness needs of Hawai‘i county’s most underserved residents, a great many of whom are Native Hawaiians.

OHA wishes to echo the thrust of this measure in its support for the disparities that our rural communities face, which include adequate healthcare and access to effective medical systems. These issues can be exacerbated when experiencing income disparities and economic instability.

Nā Pou Kihī (“The Corner Posts”) is a Hawaiian framework for achieving social and health equity¹ at a time of ever-worsening health inequities and disparities faced by the Native Hawaiian people.² Native Hawaiians are afflicted with chronic disease at a rate three times higher and a decade earlier than the general population of Hawai‘i.³ Native Hawaiians have the shortest life expectancy in their own homeland.⁴ The four interconnected corner posts of Nā Pou Kihī are Ke Ao ‘Ōiwi (Indigenous Cultural Space), Ka Mālama ‘Āina (Environmental Stewardship), Ka Wai Ola (Social Justice), and Ka ‘Ai Pono (healthy consumption) – together, they support an interwoven protective canopy over a collection of ideals that give hope to a people in great need; ideals like culturally appropriate health care.

In addition to these serious health issues, Native Hawaiians must also endure disparate economic impacts. The majority of Native Hawaiian families, in Hawai‘i, are unable to make ends meet,⁵ with 63% of Native Hawaiians reporting that they are finding it difficult to get by.⁶ Native Hawaiians have the lowest household income.⁷ Native Hawaiians

¹ Dept. of Native Hawaiian Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine, *Assessment and Priorities for the Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders*, 2020, p.16.

² Id. at 9.

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Aloha United Way / United for ALICE, *ALICE in Hawai‘i: 2022 Facts and Figures*, Nov. 2022, p.6.

⁶ Id. at 9.

⁷ Dept. of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, *Demographic, Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics for Selected Race Groups in Hawaii*, Mar. 2018, p.3.



SB759 SD1
RELATING TO HEALTH
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

have the highest poverty rates for individuals and families.⁸ Native Hawaiians make less money,⁹ with lower average earnings for both men and women.¹⁰ Native Hawaiians have the highest rate of using public assistance and homeless services.¹¹ Native Hawaiians are overrepresented among the homeless in Hawai‘i.¹² OHA is deeply concerned with Native Hawaiians being driven out of Hawai‘i by economic instability stemming from socio-political-economic upheaval, which has largely disconnected Native Hawaiians from their ‘āina for more than a century. Today, more Native Hawaiians live outside of the Hawaiian Islands, far beyond the boundaries of their own homeland.¹³

While Native Hawaiians, generally, must endure socio-economic disparities, Native Hawaiians residing in rural communities, especially those in remote areas outside of O‘ahu, have even greater challenges. On the island of Hawai‘i, the Ka‘ū district, for example, qualifies under The White House’s Justice40 Initiative by meeting the criteria identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, which has identified the district as disadvantaged under the two categories of Workforce Development and Health Burdens.¹⁴ These health burdens, that range from the 87th to the 98th percentile is just one example of disparate impact faced by our rural Hawai‘i communities.¹⁵

As is the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians,¹⁶ OHA appreciates the opportunity to voice its support on this measure and respectfully asks the Legislature to **PASS SB759 SD2**. Mahalo nui loa.

⁸ Id. at 13.

⁹ OHA Report, *Affordable Housing for Hawai‘i and Native Hawaiians: Exploring Ideas and Innovation*, Aug. 2020, p.10.

¹⁰ Dept. of Native Hawaiian Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine, *Assessment and Priorities for the Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders*, 2020, p.12.

¹¹ Id.

¹² Partners In Care, *2022 Point In Time Count*, p.7.

¹³ “Estimates from the American Community Survey showed that in 2011, there were about 296,400 Native Hawaiians in Hawai‘i and about 221,600 on the continental U.S. Just a decade later, those numbers flipped. In 2021, there were about 309,800 Native Hawaiians in Hawai‘i and about 370,000 in other states,” Hawaii Public Radio, *More Native Hawaiians Flock to mainland cities and leave Hawai‘i*, Jan. 23, 2023, *citing high costs*, citing the US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 2021.

¹⁴ ‘Apoākea (Infinite Reach) Native Hawaiian Innovation Institute, a 501(c)(3) Native Hawaiian-serving non-profit, citing to Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, White House Council on Environmental Quality, available at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>.

¹⁵ Id.

¹⁶ HRS §10-3.

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 5:22:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nash Witten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee Members,

As a born and raised primary care Family Medicine physician practicing in Wai‘anae and Hale‘iwa, O‘ahu, I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill,

Nash Witten, MD

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 6:08:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of SD2. Thank you.

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 5:51:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alison hamman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear sors,

I strongly oppose this. There is no task force necessary nor would I expect there to be a need for one in the future to govern how we parent our keiki.

we will not parent our children differently even with a task force in place this is unnecessary and Orwellian

I strongly oppose please do not even consider passing this thank you

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 6:50:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Weber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, OPPOSE SB 759.

MAHALO, JOANNA WEBER

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 8:28:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again, what's with the obsession with controlling our lives??

The DOH and dept of AG cannot make any laws on how parents raise their children.

Last I checked, the government wasn't in the room while my kids were being made.

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:13:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
juhl rayne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The health department and attorney general CANNOT make laws of how parents will raise their children! If the child is not in danger, the government needs to back off!

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:26:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mane Futo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I will not co-parent with the government! NO

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 7:45:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
noela von	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose. Thank you.

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 10:11:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Willard-Mack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The health department and attorney general must not make laws of how parents will raise their children! If the child is not in danger, the government needs to back off! This bill is unconstitutional.

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 10:22:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa S. Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional. It must not be passed!

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 11:07:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Klahr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose SB759 SD2

The upbringing of a child is the parents

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 1:11:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karri Teshima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I understand Hawaii Department of health in Department of Veterans Affairs General want to create a task force to change parenting laws the government cannot run peoples lives what laws are they going to change I oppose because of health department Attorney General cannot make laws of how parents can raise. their children.This is all about power control full of lies. The child is not in danger the government needs to back off. Leave our children alone!!!!



Chair Belatti
Vice Chair Takenouchi

House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Friday, March 17, 2023
9:00 AM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB759 SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, “to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.” The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission’s Public Health legislative committee is in **strong support** of **SB759 SD2**.

As mentioned in the bill, one of the most critical issues in Hawaii’s current public health situation is inaccessibility and its effects on disadvantaged communities. It is an issue that has been overlooked for too long. While healthcare services are ubiquitous in the urban centers of O‘ahu, many rural and low-income communities are unable to access them. Such differences in the accessibility and quality of care can significantly impact the health outcomes of patients.¹ In

¹<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8538109/>

some cases, it is the difference between life and death. This is a critical gap in Hawaii's public health system that should be addressed with utmost priority. We should work to ensure that a patient from a neighboring island receives the same quality care as another in O'ahu, regardless of their location, socioeconomic background, race and ethnicity, cultural background, educational level, or other factors. To do this, we must aim to expand outreach efforts and healthcare resources to the communities that need them the most. Establishing a pilot program in Hawaii county, along with a comprehensive 2030 shared health vision plan, is a crucial step toward making Hawaii's public health system more accessible and equitable.

Therefore, the Hawai'i State Youth Commission strongly urges the committee to **PASS SB759 SD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission
hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 2:04:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The health department and attorney general CANNOT make laws of how parents will raise their children! If the child is not in danger, the government needs to back off!

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 2:34:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Lyons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Leave our children alone! Stop trying to impose your left wing ideology.

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 7:16:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlies Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Is this the government's job?

I don't think so!

Teach the kids more usefull things in school!

Marlies Lee

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 10:24:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Meheula	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The health department and attorney general cannot make laws on our health!!

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 11:06:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mr. & Mrs. O'Neill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sb 759: The health department and attorney general CANNOT make laws of how parents will raise their children! If the child is not in danger, the government needs to back off!

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 11:11:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Alice	HOPE Services Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify in support of SB759. Hope Services Hawai'i strongly supports this bill!

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 7:38:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei Tata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill. The health department and attorney general CANNOT make laws of how parents will raise their children! If the child is not in any clear and present danger, the government needs to back off!!

SB-759-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 9:41:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/17/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mabelle Bastien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The health department and attorney general CANNOT make laws of how parents will raise their children! If the child is not in danger, the government needs to back off!