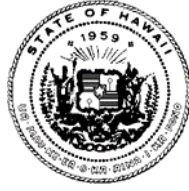


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 12, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 183 SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO  
STUDY PROVIDING CERTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ALL  
CHILDREN AND PREGNANT PERSONS WHO WOULD OTHERWISE QUALIFY FOR  
COVERAGE IF NOT FOR THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS.**

Hearing: April 13, 2023, 2:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this resolution and offers comments.

**PURPOSE:** This resolution requests that DHS study options to provide health insurance coverage for all children and pregnant persons who would otherwise qualify for coverage if not for their immigration status and submit a report to the Legislature.

The SD1 amended the resolution by:

- (1) Requesting the Department of Human Services to submit a report on the study proposed by this measure to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024, rather than by October 31, 2023; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

DHS appreciates the commitment of the Legislature to improve access to health insurance for all children and pregnant persons regardless of immigration status. DHS can

research the care opportunities, resources, and costs of providing such coverage to this specified group and engage applicable stakeholders in the study, including immigrant health care providers, social service providers, and advocacy groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Re: **SCR 183, SD1 – Requesting the Department of Human Services to Study Providing Certain Health Insurance Coverage for All Children and Pregnant Persons Who Would Otherwise Qualify for Coverage if not for Their Immigration Status**  
Hawai'i State Capitol and Via Videoconference  
April 13, 2023, 2:15 PM

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of SCR 183, SD1**, which requests the Department of Human Services to study the extension of health insurance coverage to children and pregnant people who would otherwise qualify if not for their immigration status.

**HCAN Speaks! Board  
of Directors**

Liza Ryan Gill  
*President*

Nick Kacprowski, J.D.  
*Treasurer*

Mandy Fernandes  
*Secretary*

Teri Keliipuleole  
Jasmine Slovak  
Erica Yamauchi

Of the estimated 15,000 foreign-born children in Hawai'i who are income-eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), it is estimated that 4,000 (or 29%) are barred from those federal programs as a result of their immigration status.<sup>1</sup>

Currently eleven states plus the District of Columbia allow income-eligible children to enroll in Medicaid or CHIP regardless of their immigration status.<sup>2</sup> Hawai'i should join the growing number of states that are considering such coverage.

Extending coverage is both compassionate and smart. It is hard to accept that some children are deprived of health care in the Aloha State. In addition, the pandemic has taught us the important public health lesson that having a healthy population, regardless of people's immigration status, is a benefit to the entire state and economy.

Keiki with health insurance coverage have better health outcomes compared to those without coverage. Poor health can adversely affect children's academic achievement, which in turn can undermine their health and financial security into adulthood.<sup>3</sup>

Extending health coverage to low-income keiki also helps their families have greater financial security. When children have health insurance, their parents can use more of their income on other basic needs, such as food and housing. Extending coverage to pregnant people can lead to improved parental health, which strengthens their ability to care for their children.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass these resolutions.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo, Director of Research and Economic Policy

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi\\_chip-immigrants-brief\\_final.pdf](https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/mpi_chip-immigrants-brief_final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2022/12/06/more-states-offer-health-coverage-to-immigrant-children>

<sup>3</sup> <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/updates/show/316-health-insurance-2021>

**SCR-183-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 4:03:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/13/2023 2:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a Burden on the people of Hawaii and we do not Support this Free Medical for The Ileagals in Hawaii they should be Removed and sent Back to were ever they came From NOW. Remember How you work For we the people of Hawaii will not PUT UP WITH THIS crap ANY LONGER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**SCR-183-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/12/2023 10:43:34 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/13/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR183**

Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair; Representative Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

Members, Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Hearing Date: April 13th, 2023, 2:15 p.m., Room 329

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing this resolution.

SCR183 requests the Department of Human Services to study providing certain health insurance coverage for all children and pregnant persons who would otherwise qualify for coverage if not for their immigration status.

As the pandemic **should** have taught us, **the health of the community is dependent on the health of all members of the community.**

Let's not kid ourselves. Children go to school with other children. As a teacher, I am well aware of the way that an infection can spread from one student to the rest of the students--and to the teachers, too!. If an immigrant child gets sick, with anything at all, it behooves us to provide that child with health care, and to do it before the child winds up in an ER or worse yet, dies.

The health of a fetus is dependent on the mother obtaining appropriate prenatal care. We need to assure all members of our community access to health care. Failing to do so it not only cruel...it is foolish.

Access to quality healthcare is a fundamental right that should not be denied to anyone, regardless of their immigration status. This resolution aims at addressing the persistent challenges faced by low-income immigrants in accessing affordable health care. Denial of access to health care creates a cycle of disadvantage, leading to poorer health outcomes and greater economic hardships for our immigrant families.

It also leads to greater reliance on ERs, where people wind up with health problems that could have been prevented by appropriate health care. Recurring to an ER winds up costing our health care system. It is costly, stresses our healthcare system and workers, and dilutes the ability of ER health care workers to care for people who have problems that are not preventable.

**This state's tourism and restaurant businesses depend on immigrants, some of whom are undocumented. They are the people who clean, garden, do food prep, and cook for these businesses. If tomorrow they did not report for work, our economy would be in crisis.**

They contribute so much to our State and Federal government, yet are unable to access the health care they need.

Please pass SCR183 and help our immigrant communities break the cycle of disadvantage and provide them with the opportunity to lead healthier, more productive lives. **Universal health care is part of a just and compassionate society.**

Let me remind you of Hawaii's political history. Immigrant plantation workers were not treated fairly and honestly. When the time came that their children and grandchildren could vote, it turned out that these groups had a good, long memory of what had happened to their families...and they proceeded to overturn the existing political order.

The current generation of political leaders should show that they understand this history, and take good care of our immigrants.

If it was up to me, I would like to see health insurance made available to all immigrants, male, female, pregnant women, and children. Everyone.

Mahalo for your support for this important and compassionate step forward for Hawaii.

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M.A.

Hawaii Judiciary Certified Spanish Court Interpreter, Tier 4

Moiliili, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826