



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in OPPOSITION to S.C.R. 183
RELATING TO HEALTH**

RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
Hearing Date: 4/14/2022 Room Number: CR 329 & Via
Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health does not have the resources to implement the
2 request outlined in the resolution and defers to the Governor's Executive Budget Request for
3 appropriation priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the intent of this measure but respectfully
5 opposes S.C.R. 183 as it duplicates efforts that are already underway. The Office of Primary
6 Care and Rural Health (OPCRH) is engaged with community-based organizations on Hawaii
7 Island, including the Hawaii Physician Shortage Taskforce and Community First, to conduct a
8 Community Health Needs Assessment for the county of Hawaii and its communities as a part of
9 a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) project to reduce health disparities. Efforts
10 to date have resulted in over two thousand responses to a needs survey and eleven focus groups
11 with providers, community members, and social service organizations. The results of these
12 interactions have been analyzed and a county report is being developed. Community level
13 reports, including one for Ocean View, are planned for future release. In addition, plans are
14 already underway to expand this work to other rural areas throughout the state as a part of a
15 broader effort to address disparities in health equity.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SCR-183

Submitted on: 4/14/2022 8:57:50 AM

Testimony for HHH on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Anitok	COFA Alliance National Network (CANN)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, Members of the Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

Thank you and Kimmol tata for the opportunity to lend our voice in support of this resolution, SCR 183. The importance of access to care to our community is of top priority and one of the only reasons why there is a fast growing Micronesians, Marshallese, and Pacific Islanders in the state of Hawaii. Specifically, in Ocean View we have close to 1400 people who are from the Marshall Islands alone and the vast majority are children and adults over 60 years of age. With our chronic illnesses, cancer and diabetes amongst the highest cause of death. We feel as if we've been ignored, forgotten, and discriminated against because we come to the emergency rooms with multiple chronic illnesses. We urge you to support this resolution and see this through with the Department of Health. Thank you for your time and service for all people in the State of Hawaii.

David Anitok

Policy Director, CANN