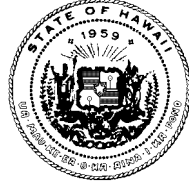


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 27, 2022

TO: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Committee on Health

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR240/SR141** – REQUESTING THE ADOPTION OF A STATE POLICY ASSURING THAT SAVINGS REALIZED BY THE STATE THROUGH THE EXTENSION OF FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE PAYMENTS OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IS USED TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES EXPERIENCED BY HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES.

HEARING: Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 1:00 pm
Via Videoconference, State Capitol Conference Room 016

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) offers comments.

PURPOSE: SCR240/ SR141 urges all executive departments to review their policies and prioritize the goal of the adoption of a state policy assuring that savings realized by the State through the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage adjustment for Native Hawaiians are used to address health disparities experienced by Hawaiian communities.

DHS appreciates the intent of this resolution and agrees that the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage adjustment to support Native Hawaiian health is intended to be used to address health disparities experienced by Hawaiian communities. DHS confirms that it is our goal to ensure that any savings realized by the State associated with increased Federal support

for Native Hawaiian health are used to further address health disparities experienced by Hawaiian communities.

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



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and Health
Tuesday, March 29, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 240/SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 141, REQUESTING THE ADOPTION OF A STATE POLICY ASSURING THAT SAVINGS REALIZED BY THE STATE ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE PAYMENTS OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IS USED TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES EXPERIENCED BY HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES.

Chair Shimabukuro, Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Joint 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 240 and Senate Resolution No. 141, REQUESTING THE ADOPTION OF A STATE POLICY ASSURING THAT SAVINGS REALIZED BY THE STATE ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE PAYMENTS OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IS USED TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES EXPERIENCED BY HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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.

These resolutions urge all executive departments to review their policies and prioritize the goal of the adoption of a state policy assuring that savings realized by the State through the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) adjustment for Native Hawaiians is used to address health disparities experienced by Hawaiian communities.

The HPCA recognizes the fine work of Papa Ola Lokahi to improve the quality of health care outcomes of native Hawaiians and joins AHARO Hawaii in supporting their efforts to maximize the utilization of FMAP adjustments for vulnerable communities.

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.



Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and Health
Tuesday, March 29, 2022; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 Via Videoconference

RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 240/SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 141
REQUESTING THE ADOPTION OF A STATE POLICY ASSURING THAT SAVINGS
REALIZED BY THE STATE ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE PAYMENTS OF ONE
HUNDRED PERCENT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IS USED TO
ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES EXPERIENCED BY HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES.

Chair Shimabukuro, Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Joint Committee:
Hāmākua Health Center Inc., DBA Hāmākua-Kohala Health is a 501(c)(3) organization
established to provide Primary Care, Behavioral Health Services, and Dental care on the island
of Hawai'i. Hāmākua-Kohala Health SUPPORTS Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 240 and
Senate Resolution No. 141, REQUESTING THE ADOPTION OF A STATE POLICY
ASSURING THAT SAVINGS REALIZED BY THE STATE ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE
PAYMENTS OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE
SYSTEMS IS USED TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES EXPERIENCED BY
HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES.

By way of background, Hāmākua-Kohala Health (HKH) represents over 10,000 patients in
Waimea, Hāmākua and Kohala coasts. FQHCs provides needed medical services at the
frontlines and HKH has over 30,000 visits yearly for Primary Care, Behavioral Health services,
and Dental care. Many of our patients live in rural and underserved communities. Established in
1966 as a Plantation clinic, Hāmākua-Kohala Health has been a champion for the populations we
represent on the island of Hawai'i. Our goal is to ensure that we continue to provide sustainable,
integrated, and wellness-oriented healthcare. Our FQHC provides a more efficient, more
effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

These resolutions urge all executive departments to review their policies and prioritize the goal
of the adoption of a state policy assuring that savings realized by the State through the Federal
Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) adjustment for Native Hawaiians is used to address
health disparities experienced by Hawaiian communities.

Hāmākua-Kohala Health recognizes the fine work of Papa Ola Lokahi to improve the quality of
health care outcomes of native Hawaiians and as a member of AHARO supports their efforts to
maximize the utilization of FMAP adjustments for vulnerable communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate
to contact Hāmākua-Kohala health Chief Operating Officer Milton Cortez at (808)930-2734 or
mcortez@Hāmākua-health.org



**Testimony to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs & Committee on Health
Tuesday, March 29, 2022; 1:00pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference**

RE: SCR 240 / SR 141 Requesting the adoption of a state policy assuring that savings realized by the State through the extension of federal medical assistance percentage payments of one hundred percent for Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems is used to address health disparities experienced by Hawaiian communities.

Chairs Shimabukuro and Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and Health:

My name is Mary Frances Oneha and I am the Chief Executive Office of Waimanalo Health Center (WHC). I am testifying in support of SCR 240 / SR 141 to support 100% of savings realized through the FMAP be used to address health disparities experienced by Hawaiian communities.

Waimanalo Health Center is a member of AHARO Hawai'i, and is recognized by Papa Ola Lokahi as a Native Hawaiian Health Center. WHC serves 52% Native Hawaiians, primarily in the Waimanalo community. The spectrum of primary and preventive services have been provided to this community by WHC for 30 years. This community would greatly benefit from savings to address disparities related to dental health and early onset of chronic diseases.

On behalf of the staff and patients of WHC, I urge your support of SCR 240 / SR 141.



**WAIANAЕ COAST
COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER**
www.wcchc.com

March 28, 2022

Testimony to the: COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS: Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair, and Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, and Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022; 1:00 pm; Conference Rm. 016

RE: Testimony in Support of S.C.R. No 240/SR 141 - REQUESTING THE ADOPTION OF A STATE POLICY ASSURING THAT SAVINGS REALIZED BY THE STATE THROUGH THE EXTENSION OF FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE PAYMENTS OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IS USED TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES EXPERIENCED BY HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES.

Submitted by: Richard Bettini, President & CEO

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center is one of the largest providers of primary medical care to Native Hawaiians. Congress has extended an extraordinary benefit to the State of Hawaii in eliminating State match requirements under Medicaid for patients seen by Native Hawaiian Health Centers. The designation of a Native Hawaiian Health Center can be made by Papa Ola Lokahi.

This opportunity dates back to April 2021 and will extend for another year. We urge that this opportunity be ceased by the State of Hawaii as soon as possible and that the following guidelines be used to implement this program:

1. The process for reallocating margins realized out of this benefit be transparent and allow for Native Hawaiian Health Centers to propose options for the use of redirected funds.
2. Not less than 50% of any realized savings from this provision be redirected to unmet health needs of Native Hawaiians including those previously identified in needs assessment studies. These include the early onset of chronic disease, access to emergency medical care, adult dental care access and addressing related social determinant factors in healthcare.
3. Funds allocated to address the issues identified above be administered through community governing boards including Native Hawaiian Health Centers, Native Hawaiian Health Systems, and Federally Qualified Health Centers.

While we recognize that continued FMAP support beyond the pilot two-year program is not certain, we believe the establishment of this formula for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives suggests that there will be some equity for the Native Hawaiian community. As protection against future shortfalls, this funding could be allocated through a grant format between Health Plans and specified non-profits.

We very much appreciate your support on this matter. Aloha.



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lōkahi

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Health

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 1:00 PM, CR 016 & Videoconference

RE: SCR 240, SR 141 - REQUESTING THE ADOPTION OF A STATE POLICY ASSURING THAT SAVINGS REALIZED BY THE STATE THROUGH THE EXTENSION OF FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE PAYMENTS OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS IS USED TO ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES EXPERIENCED BY HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES.

Position: Comment

Papa Ola Lōkahi (POL) provides the following comment to amend the fifth clause of SCR 240 and SR 141 to the following for accuracy regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):

WHEREAS, under section 9815 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA"), the federal government will pay one hundred percent of the cost of Medicaid services provided at Native Hawaiian Health Centers for ~~sixteen~~ eight fiscal year quarters (which may be extended); and

The enrolled bill can be found [here](#), with Section 9815 on pages 212-213.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for clarity.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.

Papa Ola Lokahi

is the Native Hawaiian Health Board established in 1988 to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians.

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Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD

SCR-240

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 4:57:51 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/29/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully support.

SCR-240

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 6:37:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/29/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support