



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 28
DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MARCH
AS HAWAII KIDNEY AWARENESS MONTH**

REPRESENTATIVE MARK M. NAKASHIMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hearing Date: April 13, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 329
& Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports Senate Concurrent
3 Resolution 28 (S.C.R. 28) and designating March as Hawaii Kidney Awareness Month.
4 Hawaii's kidney failure rate is 30% higher than the national rate, and studies have shown that
5 incidence rates of end stage kidney disease among Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders
6 are especially high.

7 Diabetes and high blood pressure are the two leading causes of kidney failure. It is
8 possible to delay or prevent chronic kidney disease through early detection and appropriate
9 management of these chronic diseases. According to data from the Hawaii Behavioral Risk
10 Factor Surveillance System, 11% of Hawaii's adults have type 2 diabetes, and 31% have high
11 blood pressure.^{1,2} The DOH Diabetes Prevention and Control Program and Heart Disease and
12 Stroke Program work with partners across the state to support the prevention and self-
13 management of diabetes and high blood pressure and early detection of chronic kidney disease.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

15 **Offered Amendments:**

16 Requested amendment to paragraph 9, page 2, lines 36 to 39:

17

¹ Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. (2020). <http://hhdw.org>. Accessed on March 6, 2023.

² Hawaii State Department of Health, Hawaii Health Data Warehouse, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. (2019). <http://hhdw.org>. Accessed on March 6, 2023.

1 WHEREAS, in light of the silent danger posed by chronic kidney
2 disease and its prevalence in Hawaii, increasing evidenced-based
3 prevention interventions and awareness of chronic kidney disease
4 must become a top health care priority within the State; now,
5 therefore,



April 13, 2023

The Hon. Mark Nakashima
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Members of the Committee

Re: SCR 28 relating to Kidney Awareness Month

Aloha Chair Nakashima and members of the committee,

On behalf of U.S. Renal Care, we are writing to commend you on the introduction, and request that you adopt the passage, of the House and Senate Concurrent Resolutions which will help educate the community by naming March Hawaii Kidney Awareness month.

U.S. Renal Care serves more than 1,000 patients in Hawaii and more than 26,000 patients across 32 states in more than 400 facilities providing in-center and home dialysis. Our mission is to change the lives of people living with kidney disease. We spend each and every day dedicated to promoting awareness about kidney health.

Kidney disease is often referred to as a “silent disease” because there are usually no symptoms during its early stages. As many as 90% of people who have chronic kidney disease don’t know they have the disease until it is very advanced. Recent reports analyzing national data on end-stage renal failure and kidney transplants shows that people from Indigenous Pacific communities who need kidney transplants are less likely to get them. This is particularly problematic since Pacific Islanders are disproportionately afflicted by kidney disease.

The earlier someone finds out that they have kidney disease, the sooner that steps can be taken to prevent further damage. Therefore, awareness about kidney health and disease is imperative to promote health in Hawaii.

Please support these resolutions.



The Hon. Mark Nakashima, Chair
The Hon. Jackson Sayama, Vice Chair
House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee

April 13, 2023

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

On behalf of the Chronic Disease Coalition, thank you for hearing the Concurrent Resolution to recognize March as Hawai'i Kidney Awareness Month.

The Chronic Disease Coalition is a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the rights of chronic disease patients against discriminatory policies and practices. The coalition was founded in 2015 and has since worked to advocate for people living with long-term or lifelong health conditions such as diabetes, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, cancer, hemophilia, and other chronic diseases – including chronic kidney disease.

Kidney disease is on the rise. Approximately 37 million Americans have chronic kidney disease, but as many as 9 in 10 do not know they have it. This disease also disproportionately impacts communities of color, with some recent reports showing that people from Indigenous Pacific communities have higher rates of the disease and are less likely to receive a transplant if needed.

According to our partners at the National Kidney Foundation, kidney disease causes more deaths than breast cancer or prostate cancer and is an under-recognized public health crisis.

By calling attention to the importance of education and self-empowerment regarding chronic kidney disease, the quality and availability of public information can be improved. The resolutions introduced in the Hawai'i Legislature are an important tool to spread awareness and ultimately improve patient outcomes in the state.

We urge you to pass these resolutions as soon as possible. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Brown
Director of Advocacy
nathaniel@chronicdiseasecoalition.org
971.219.5561
www.chronicdiseasecoalition.org



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: April 13, 2023

Re: Testimony in support of SCR28: Designating the Month of March as Hawai'i Kidney Awareness Month.

The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to testify in strong **support** of SCR28, which designates the month of March as Hawai'i Kidney Awareness month. We commend the introducer and committee's commitment to raise awareness of a disease that affects millions of Americans, especially those in the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. Queen's recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the transplant center which is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care to patients who require transplantation services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

Date: April 13, 2023

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Bernard Robinson, MD, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: SCR 28, Designating the Month of March as Hawaii Kidney Awareness Month

Position: Support

As the 10th leading cause of death, kidney disease is a significant contributor to morbidity and mortality across the United States. The rate of kidney failure in Hawaii is 30% higher than the national average, indicating the severe impact this condition has had on our state. Increasing awareness will improve public education on prevention and treatment.

Furthermore, Hawaii currently suffers from a severe shortage of dialysis, a necessary therapy for those suffering from kidney failure. Up to 700 additional Hawaiian residents require dialysis every year, increasing the demand on an already strained system. Increasing awareness about kidney disease is the first step towards addressing this dangerous deficiency in our medical system.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify on this measure.

References and Quick Links:

Kidney disease (Hawaiian). APIAHF. (2022, April 1). Retrieved March 7, 2023, from <https://www.apiahf.org/resource/kidney-disease-hawaiian/#:~:text=Hawaii's%20kidney%20failure%20rate,et%20al.%2C2012>).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, January 17). *FASTSTATS - kidney disease*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved March 7, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/kidney-disease.htm>

Teague, C. (2018, February 22). *Why opening a dialysis center takes years longer in Hawaii*. Honolulu Civil Beat. Retrieved March 7, 2023, from [https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/02/why-opening-a-dialysis-center-takes-years-longer-in-hawaii/#:~:text=Unmet%20Patient%20Demand&text=About%20700%20additional%20Hawaii%20residents,the%20Health%20Services%20Advisory%20Group.&text=%E2%80%9CThe%20majority%20of%20the%20\(patient,preside nt%20of%20Liberty%20Dialysis%20Hawaii](https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/02/why-opening-a-dialysis-center-takes-years-longer-in-hawaii/#:~:text=Unmet%20Patient%20Demand&text=About%20700%20additional%20Hawaii%20residents,the%20Health%20Services%20Advisory%20Group.&text=%E2%80%9CThe%20majority%20of%20the%20(patient,preside nt%20of%20Liberty%20Dialysis%20Hawaii).

2023 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Angela M. Pratt, MD, President • Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President Elect • Michael Champion, MD, Immediate Past President
Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2023 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, Chair • Beth England, MD, Co-Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



April 13, 2023 at 2:15 pm
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

To: Chair Mark M. Nakashima
Vice Chair Jackson D. Sayama

From: Hilton Raethel
President and CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Support**
SCR 28: Designating the Month of March as Hawaii Kidney Awareness Month

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of this concurrent resolution, as it is important to recognize kidney disease as a major health concern nationwide. In Hawaii, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations are at high risk of experiencing kidney disease and the state's kidney failure rate is 37% higher than the national rate, which is quite alarming. It is also prudent to know that socioeconomic factors can also play a vital role in these statistics.

As we all have or know someone affected by these diseases, it is incredibly important to bring further awareness to this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important issue.

Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 2:15 PM
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 329

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

To: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair
Representative Jackson Sayama, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **Testimony in Support of SCR 28
Designating The Month Of March As Hawai'i Kidney Awareness Month**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

HPH writes in SUPPORT of SCR 28 which would designate the month of March as Hawai'i Kidney Awareness Month.

The National Kidney Foundation reports that 26 million adults suffer from chronic kidney disease (CKD), also known as chronic renal disease, and many others are at increased risk of developing the disease. In Hawai'i the incidence of kidney failure is 30% higher than the national average. Many Hawai'i residents suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure, which are the two leading causes of kidney failure, causing chronic kidney disease to be a particularly dangerous threat to the people of Hawai'i.

There is no cure for CKD. Thus, prevention is critical. Strategies include increasing physical activity, not smoking or quitting smoking, eating less salt and sugar, managing blood pressure and having kidney function checked. Education as to the health risks and management of CKD is important in bringing awareness to this potentially debilitating disease. SCR 28 is both timely and vital to the wellbeing of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Beth Ann Kozlovich
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825

April 13, 2023

Chair Mark Nakashima, House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee
Vice Chair Jackson Sayama, House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee
Members of the Committee
Via Electronic Submission

Re: Concurrent Resolution 28 Designating the Month of March as Hawaii Kidney
Awareness Month

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the committee!

My name is Beth Ann Kozlovich and I am a communications professional and resident of Honolulu. I have a deep commitment to health care and wellness in our community.

My family felt the impact of my father's kidney disease requiring dialysis several times each week. Like you, I know that kidney disease often develops slowly with few symptoms, and many people don't realize they have it until the disease is quite advanced. I am especially concerned by the startling statistics that indicate that Hawai'i residents and Pacific islanders have increased risks of kidney disease. **Awareness** of kidney disease, especially for those at risk, is such an important step to preventing, or slowing the progression, of kidney disease.

I commend the legislature for seeking to promote awareness by designating March Hawai'i Kidney Awareness Month.

Please support the concurrent resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Beth Ann Kozlovich

Melissa Pavlicek
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 13, 2023

Chair Mark Nakashima
Vice Chair Jackson Sayama
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: SCR 28, March Kidney Awareness Month

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the committee!

I am a Hawaii attorney and small business owner in Honolulu, Hawaii. I am writing today in **strong support** of naming March Kidney Awareness month. Kidney disease has touched my family and so many other families in Hawai'i and across the world. For over five years, kidney dialysis treatment prolonged the life of my brother-in-law and we are grateful for the time we had with him and miss him dearly.

Among the important facts that a Kidney Awareness Month will help illuminate are:

- Early chronic kidney disease has no signs or symptoms.
- Chronic kidney disease usually does not go away.
- Kidney disease can be treated.
- Kidney disease can progress to kidney failure.

Increasing awareness is a key factor in preventing disease and diminishing its impact.

Please support these resolutions.

Sincerely,



Melissa Pavlicek