

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](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



**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.

**Board of Directors**

*Member Organizations*

*Ho'ola Lāhui Hawaii*

*Hui No Ke Ola Pono*

*Hui Mālama Ola Na 'Ōiwi*

*ALU LIKE*

*Ke Ola Mamo*

*E Ola Mau*

*University of Hawai'i*

*Hawai'i State Department of Health*

*Nā Pu'uwai*

*Office of Hawaiian Affairs*

**Executive Director**

*Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD*

**SR-141**

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 12:19:24 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm confused as to why 100% of these funds were not utilized in this matter previously.

Secondly, the state might want to crack down on the types of foods that are allowed to be sold in Hawai'i because 80% of the last two generations died as a result of the unhealthy foods that they ate throughout their lives. Where did that food come from? Everybody knows that the original Hawaiian diet is one of the healthiest ways to eat and maintain personal health. If we mitigate harmful foods by replacing them with local fresh foods, we can drastically reduce medical costs in the short and long run.