

LATE

SR-176

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:20:27 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/23/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Aloha Lokahi Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SR 176. OceanView and the Ka'u District of Hawaii Island has been underserved in many ways. There are serious health needs in this district. Please support the assessment defined in SR 176.

Mahalo,

Sylvia Dolena

Aloha Lokahi Assoc.



Community Association

Mission: "Do What It Takes To Keep Ka'u Healthy"

P.O.Box 878 Pahala, Hi 96777

Website: KRHCAI.COM

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LATE

March 23, 2022

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

From: Jessanie Marques, Executive Director Ka'u Rural Health Community Association Inc.

Re: Support of SCR183/SR176: Requesting the Department of Health to conduct a study to assess the health care needs of the residents of Oceanview on the island of Hawaii.

Ka'u Rural Health Community Association, Inc.(KRHCAI) board of directors, support the intent of SCR 183/SR176 and would like to provide some comments. As a non-profit community based organization whose mission is "To Do What It Takes To Keep Ka'u Healthy", KRHCAI believe a study to assess the health care needs of the residents in the diverse, medically underserved, vulnerable and marginalized Oceanview community on the island of Hawaii is essential to the health and well being of our people.

KRHCAI has been the the lead community based non profit organization (Nov. 1998) that focus on health, education, research opportunities and economic sustainability programs, and serve a population of 9,000 in the District of Ka'u. Over the past 5 years, KRHCAI collaborated with many Pacific Islander's (PI) church leaders, community members, and beneficiaries or recipients of the Compact of Free Association (COFA); the Dept. of Health, healthcare providers, civic groups, academic institutions, and public/private sectors.

Oceanview's PI's have expressed concerns of "lack of unmet and inadequately served healthcare needs and social services", such as access to interpreters, advocates, cultural and linguistically appropriate communication, informational material, (i.e. health insurance, transportation, housing, legal aide, immigration etc.). One of the most challenging barriers was that of being able to "trust" the health care provider, who often does not seem to understand the PI's language, culture and values.

An assessment of the healthcare needs in Oceanview would not only identify PI's primary challenges and barriers such as linguistic, cultural and trust barriers; it would "identify unmet and inadequately served health care needs of residents and further identify the potential sources or causes of gaps, patterns of disease and provide policy, operational and any other pertinent recommendations to address the unmet or inadequately served health care needs of residents of Oceanview; and prioritize recommendations according to relative severity and urgency of the health care issue".

KRHCAI acknowledges that this example of barriers and challenges that PI/COFA beneficiaries have and continue to endure, establishes a basis for the Dept. of Health to conduct a much needed study to assess the health care needs of Oceanview's diverse, medically underserved, vulnerable and marginalized community.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our comments and ask for your continued support.



Community Association

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SR-176

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 10:20:57 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/23/2022 1:30:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald M Gall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having lived on the Big Island for over eighteen years and in Ocean View for over eleven years, I can attest that medical services are nearly non-existent in Ocean View. Nearly one third of the residents of Ocean View have an income at or below the Federal Poverty Level. Transportation for many residents in Ocean View is also a challenge....some do not have transportation and the public transit system does not service subdivisions like Hawaiian Ocean View Estates (HOVE) which is the largest subdivision in the United States with 11,500 one acre lots and elevation from 1900 to 5000 feet. The land owners in HOVE pay a mandatory annual assessment of \$150 per lot to maintain the 157 miles of roadways in the subdivision....a big money saver for Hawaii County's road district.

The only life saver in Ocean View is the EMT Service that is typically very responsive to emergency medical needs of the Ocean View community.

While my wife and I have good medical insurance through Kaiser Permanente, it is at least an hour and a half drive to the Kona Clinic since the Captain Cook Clinic closed several years ago. If we need a test beyond blood work, xray or ultrasound, we need to travel to Honolulu....that's typically 12-13 hours for a fifteen or twenty minute appointment.

I support the proposed study of the health care needs of the Ocean View community. Hopefully, the "study" will be followed by funding and ACTION and not just the usual "talk about" that is the usual result in the Ka'u District.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald M Gall