

TESTIMONY OF

LARRY S VERAY

TO THE COMMITTEE ON:
LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

MOST STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR 24 / SR 18

**RECOGNIZING APRIL 17 THROUGH APRIL 23, 2022, AS VOLUNTEER WEEK IN
THE STATE OF HAWAII**

MARCH 31, 2022

Aloha, Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and committee members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on SR 24 / SR 18. Although I am Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No. 21, I am submitting this testimony as an individual.

I totally support SR 24 / SR 18 and its intent to designate the month of April as Volunteer Month to recognize the thousands of volunteers who sacrifice their personal family time to support others for always a good cause. This past two years during the pandemic, many citizens stood up to help others supporting Department of Health vaccine centers, providing food and water to our elderly, families and the homeless; The Pearl City Lions Club volunteered their time to support blood drives and even donating much needed blood, Many church groups assisted in facilitating food drives and collecting food from the community for the needy. Lastly, many military and civilian volunteer groups, working side-by-side assisted in keeping our island clean by picking up trash off the Pearl Harbor Historic Bike Trail, from our parks and on off roadways. This volunteerism was observed throughout all the island communities while spreading their Aloha to others.

I most strongly urge you to support and approve SR 24 / SR 18 because it is the right thing to do to recognize our special volunteers in Hawai'i. Mahalo!

Very respectfully,

Larry S. Veray



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Date: 04/04/2022

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 225

Committee(s): LCA

Title of Bill: SCR24 & SR18

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Ihara and Committee Members :

Kanu Hawaii is providing testimony in SUPPORT of SCR24 & SR18 RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER WEEK IN HAWAII.

This resolution seeks to recognize Volunteer Week in the State of Hawaii for the year 2022. The dates mirror the dates of National Volunteer Week. Although National Volunteer Week has been celebrated every year since 1974 by Presidential Proclamation, Hawaii only officially recognized the week beginning in 2018 when the legislature passed HCR153_SD1.

Through the support of that resolution in 2018, the community held over 60 events across 5 islands. Now, in its fifth year, Volunteer Week in Hawaii 2022 is being celebrated by over 200 organizations hosting over 250 events across 6 islands engaging thousands of volunteers.

2018 was also a year of natural disasters across Hawaii. Proactively engaging community to volunteer during blue sky times will inevitably result in strength of response during gray skies. And as the data has shown us, the number one determining factor of a community's ability to respond and recover from a natural disaster is the health of its social links and strength of community relationships.

Volunteer Week Hawaii is the largest volunteer focused campaign in Hawaii and the largest state level celebration of National Volunteer Week in the United States. With the passage of SCR24 & SR18 and continued recognition of Volunteer Week in Hawaii, we hope to increase the level of volunteer engagement and capacity building for Hawaii's population, including its non-profits, community organizations, and schools in the years to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Keone Kealoha", written in a cursive style.

Keone Kealoha
Executive Director, Kanu Hawaii