



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.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: March 8, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 329
& Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports House Concurrent
3 Resolution 28 (H.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 management of diabetes and high
13 blood pressure and early detection of chronic kidney disease.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None

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.



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

Date: March 8, 2023

Re: Testimony in support of HCR28: 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 HCR28, 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.

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 2:00 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 HCR 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 HCR 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. HCR 28 is both timely and vital to the wellbeing of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HIPHI Board

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HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective

Date: March 6, 2023

To: Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: Support HCR 28 Designating the Month of March as Hawai'i
Kidney Awareness Month

Hrg: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 3:00 PM, Conf Rm 329

The Hawai'i Public Health Instituteⁱ is in **Strong Support of HCR 28**, which would designate the month of March as Hawai'i Kidney Awareness Month.

Chronic kidney disease affects nearly 37 million people nationally. Ninety percent of those with early kidney disease are unaware of the medical condition affecting them because there are few signs or symptoms to alert a person in the early stages of the diseaseⁱⁱ.

Chronic kidney disease is a gradual failure of the kidneys. The kidneys lose their ability to filter wastes and excess fluids from the blood. As time progresses, dangerous levels of fluid, electrolytes, and wastes build up in the body, which is a life-threatening situation. To treat end-stage kidney disease, one needs dialysis or a kidney transplant.

The occurrence of end-stage kidney disease is rapidly increasing. More than 785,000 Americans are diagnosed with kidney failure, and minorities suffer disproportionately.ⁱⁱⁱ Hawai'i's kidney failure rate is 30% higher than the national rate.^{iv} Furthermore, Native Hawaiian and Asian American populations are the most understudied racial/ethnic groups in chronic kidney disease research. The prevalence of end-stage kidney disease is 9.5 times greater among the Native Hawaiian population and 1.3 times greater among Asian Americans.^v

These numbers are alarming and illustrate the need to bring awareness to the issue. Kidney disease is treatable when people have access to health care and receive interventions that lead to early detection. It is necessary to increase awareness through education and advocacy so people know the signs of kidney disease and to seek medical care.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute strongly supports designating March as Hawai'i Kidney Awareness Month to raise awareness of this life-threatening and increase the rates of early detection and treatment.

Thank you for the opportunity to support a policy that will positively affect the health in our state.

Mahalo,



Peggy Mierzwa
Policy & Advocacy Director
Hawaii Public Health Institute

ⁱThe Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) is dedicated to reducing tobacco use through education, policy, and advocacy. With more than two decades of history in Hawai'i, the Coalition has led several campaigns on enacting smoke-free environments, including being the first state in the nation to prohibit the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to purchasers under 21 years of age.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.kidneyfund.org/all-about-kidneys/quick-kidney-disease-facts-and-stats#:~:text=37%20million%20Americans%20have%20kidney,are%20living%20with%20kidney%20failure.&text=Kidney%20disease%20is%20growing%20at,greater%20risk%20for%20kidney%20failure>.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/whats-behind-racial-disparities-in-kidney-disease-2021020321842>

^{iv} <https://www.apiahf.org/resource/kidney-disease-hawaiian/#:~:text=Hawaii's%20kidney%20failure%20rate,people%20whose%20kidneys%20are%20failing>.

^v https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/20_0011.htm



March 8, 2023

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

Re: HCR 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 Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

March 8, 2023

Chair Nakashima and Vice Chair Sayama:

On behalf of the Chronic Disease Coalition, thank you for introducing the House 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

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/8/2023 8:02:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Hayashida	National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

The National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii (NKFH) joins other kidney related organizations including the dialysis providers in the State of Hawaii, in thanking the Hawaii State Legislators, for recognizing March is Kidney Month here in Hawaii.

Too many of us know someone who has kidney disease or is in need of dialysis. That's because 1 out every 5 adults in Hawaii have chronic kidney disease (CKD) which includes close to 5,000 needing dialysis to continue living. In addition, 1 in 3 Americans is at risk for CKD.

Kidney disease is often referred to as a "silent killer", because there are usually no symptoms during its early stages. In fact, many as 90% of Americans who have CKD don't know they have the disease until it is very advanced. Once symptoms are experienced, it usually means a person's kidneys are failing.

Like many chronic health diseases, prevention is the key. The major risk factors include diabetes, high blood pressure, a family history of kidney failure and being age 60 or older.

That's why the NKFH offers many prevention programs to address diabetes, CKD, gout, and free kidney screenings. Early detection and treatment can slow or prevent the progression of kidney disease. NKFH maintains Hawaii's repository of healthcare data essential to managing kidney disease today. To do so, we work collaboratively with laboratories and research institutions to ensure that Hawaii's healthcare test data and test results for chronic kidney disease and Stage 5 end-stage renal disease keep in step with national standards and emerging best practices

To highlight the awareness of CKD, the NKFH is hosting and promoting a Kidney Walk on Saturday, March 25 at Kapiolani Park. NKFH is also hosting a free Patient Education Series on

Gout and Your Kidneys on March 26 while promoting a free comprehensive kidney screening in April.

Thank you for this opportunity to support HCR 28.

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

March 8, 2023

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

Re: HCR 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

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/4/2023 7:52:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 7:26:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY HCR28

Date: March 6, 2023

To: NAKASHIMA, ALCOS, AMATO, BELATTI, CHUN, COCHRAN, GANADEN, GARCIA, GARRETT, GATES, HASHEM, HASHIMOTO, HUSSEY-BURDICK, ICHIYAMA, ILAGAN, KAHALOA, KILA, KITAGAWA, KOBAYASHI, LA CHICA, LAMOSAO, LOWEN, MARTEN, MARTINEZ, MATAYOSHI, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, NAKAMURA, NISHIMOTO, ONISHI, PERRUSO, PIERICK, POEPOE, QUINLAN, SAIKI, SAYAMA, SOUZA, TAKAYAMA, TAKENOUCI, TAM, TARNAS, TODD, WARD, WOODSON

From: Jaden Scott

Subject: DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MARCH AS HAWAII KIDNEY AWARENESS MONTH.

Aloha my name is Jaden B. Scott and I am sophomore at Kalaheo High School and participate in student council and government. I am in strong support of making March Hawaii Kidney Awareness month. This would insure awareness and understanding on why our Kidneys are crucial and important.

Kidneys are crucial to the urinary system and are needed in order to filter waste or other toxins in the body. If Kidneys start to fail one might feel extremely tired and weak because your body is working so hard to clean your blood. Severe situations might lead to seizures

or come and could ultimately result in death. If Kidneys stop working completely one might need to undergo a transplant.

Making March Kidney Awareness month would help raise consciousness of the need of Kidneys. In 2019 over 5,000 Hawaiis are living with life threatening kidney failure. Only 1 in 7 people were able to receive a kidney transplant, reaching 44 kidney transplants in 2020. “Worldwide, there are more than 785,000 people with kidney failure in the United States and an increase of more than 100% since 2000.” The American Kidney Fund stated.

Teaching and educating people about the effects and causes of Kidney failure and diseases would help many possible prevent themselves from getting that disease. Making March kidney awareness would even possibly encourage and promote Kidney donors in Hawaii. Among the Hawaiian community and around the islands raising attention to Kidney Awareness is one step closer to creating a healthier and happier nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I hope to make March Kidney Awareness Month for the generations to come.

Beth Ann Kozlovich
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825

March 8, 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

To: House Committee of Consumer Protection and Commerce
Senator Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Senator Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
Committee Members

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 8, 2023, at 3:00 PM

Re: Testimony in Support of HCR28

From: Shaylyn Arakaki, MSW Student

Dear Mark M. Nakashima, chair, Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR28, relating to designating the month of March as Hawai'i Kidney Awareness Month. I am currently a Master of Social Work Student of the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and I strongly support Bill HCR28.

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases stated that as many as 90% of Americans have chronic kidney disease and as much as 90,000 people in the United States are waiting for a kidney donation. So, this is a prevalent health problem that needs to be addressed.

Pertaining to Hawai'i the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) stated that Hawai'i's kidney failure rate is 30% higher than the national rate and that it is a "silent disease" because most people do not know they have the disease until it is very advanced. There were 905 new cases of kidney failure diagnosed in Hawai'i in 2018, of which all of the 905 were not able to get a transplant which led them to go on dialysis. So, I believe that designating the month of March as Hawai'i Kidney Awareness Month would be highly beneficial for our community to promote education, health tips, prevention, and awareness on chronic kidney disease throughout the state.

Thank you again for this opportunity to express my strong support for bill HCR28.

Sincerely,
Shaylyn Arakaki

HCR-28

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 10:49:25 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danny Cup Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's unfortunate that most people I know in Hawaii either know someone with kidney disease or know someone who is high-risk (or have it themselves). Thankfully, with early detection there can often be effective treatments and positive outcomes that allow for our loved ones to continue enjoying their quality of life. My hope is that this resolution will raise Hawaii's awareness of kidney disease and enable more members of our community to take steps towards prevention or early detection. Thank you for supporting this important cause.



Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiiimedicalassociation.org

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

Date: March 7, 2023

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Beth England MD, Co-Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: H.C.R 28,

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,president%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,president%20of%20Liberty%20Dialysis%20Hawaii)

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