



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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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**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Hearing Date: April 12, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 225
& 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 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:**

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

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



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Transportation & Culture & The Arts

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

Date: April 11, 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 Legislature'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 in support of HCR28..

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.



Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:
Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Committee on Transportation and Culture and The Arts
The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

April 12, 2023
1:05 pm
Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference

Re: HCR 28, DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MARCH AS HAWAII KIDNEY AWARENESS MONTH

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 28, which Designates the Month of March as Hawaii Kidney Awareness Month.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HCR 28.

Kaiser Permanente is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, including more than 269,000 members of Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i. Across the State, over 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to care for our members and serve our communities. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i has more than 20 medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve in Hawai'i.

Kaiser Permanente supports HCR 28 because it will raise awareness to a disease that affects millions of Americans. At the same time, Hawaii's kidney failure rate is 30% higher than the

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national rate, and studies have shown that incidence rates of end stage kidney disease among Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders are especially high. Kaiser Permanente takes an integrated, patient-centered approach to health care that sets our disease management program apart, including chronic kidney disease. It's built into all our health plans and has our members covered from prevention to personalized medicine to help manage patients at risk for chronic conditions, including end-stage renal disease.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Hawaii State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Conference Room 225
Hawaii State Capitol

HCR 28 Designating the Month of March as Hawaii Kidney Awareness Month

Good afternoon, Chairs Joy San Buenaventura and Chris Lee, Vice Chairs Henry Aquino and Lorraine Inouye; and Members of the Senate Committees on Health and Human Services; and Transportation and Culture and the Arts.

My name is Jocelyn Saccamago and I serve as the Regional Vice President for Hawaii and Guam of Liberty Dialysis. We are an affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care.

Liberty Dialysis stands in **STRONGEST SUPPORT of HCR 28** Designating the Month of March as Hawaii Kidney Awareness Month. We stand with the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii and other kidney specialists and dialysis providers in expressing our deep-felt appreciation to the Legislature to recognize March as Kidney Month in Hawaii.

Raising the awareness of kidney disease is essential to preventing it. With awareness, people can learn to prevent and/or better manage the chronic diseases that lead to kidney disease and end-stage renal disease. What is especially concerning in Hawaii is that our youth have higher rates of chronic disease with more than twenty-five percent of hospitalized youth and greater than twelve percent of youth who went to an emergency room having at least one chronic condition such as diabetes, chronic kidney disease or high blood pressure. All of which can lead to end-stage renal disease. Last year, Liberty Dialysis partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii to bring the global Kidney Kid initiative to Honolulu to emphasize the importance of good nutrition, regular physical activity, and improving overall well-being for youth ages six to fifteen to encourage lifelong healthier habits for their kidneys. Working together we can all heighten the awareness of the importance of kidney health in Hawaii!

Thank you so very much for supporting kidney awareness in Hawaii by proposing to designate March as Kidney Month in Hawaii!

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 1:05 PM
Conference Room 225 & Via Video Conference

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and The Arts

To: Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine Inouye, 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.



Hawaii Medical Association

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Date: April 12, 2023

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Bernard Robinson, MD, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: HCR 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>

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

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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HCR-28

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 7:25:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Hayashida	Testifying for National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

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 held a Kidney Walk on Saturday, March 25 at Kapiolani Park. There were over 600 registered participants and close to 1000 people at the Walk. NKFH is also hosted a free Patient Education Series on Gout and Your Kidneys on March 26. There will be a free comprehensive kidney screening on the Windward side of Oahu on April 29, 2023.

Thank you for supporting the efforts of the entire kidney community .

HCR-28

Submitted on: 4/9/2023 9:21:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators from both committees.

My father in law has kidney disease. Most of the patients I take care of have some form of kidney disease and several are on dialysis for end stage renal disease (ESRD). Many of the traditional foods eaten here in Hawaii are very high in sodium. The cost of fresh fruits and vegetables is astronomical. I can imagine it is difficult for the most vulnerable populations here in Hawaii to afford healthy diets.

With Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders having disproportionate prevalence of kidney disease and Hawaii having a thirty percent higher rate of ESRD than the rest of the US, having March designated as Kidney Awareness Month seems reasonable. Prevention and early treatment are key in improving the metrics for Hawaii’s residents.

As is mentioned in the resolution, part of the problem is the prevalence of diabetes and hypertension. Diabetic nephropathy is due to inadequate glucose control over a long period of time. “Multiple interventional managements with control of blood glucose, blood pressure and lipid, and smoking cessation can significantly improve the prognosis of cardiovascular events and help to slow down the progression of renal disease” (Lin et al., 2018, p.667).

Smoking cessation, dietary restrictions such as protein and sodium, weight reduction, and exercise are also important lifestyle modifications to help reduce cardiovascular risk and risk of diabetic kidney disease. There are many medications that can help to reduce blood sugar, prevent or decrease spilling of protein into the urine, and help to reduce kidney function decline (Lin et al., 2018).

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) not only increases the risk of kidney failure and the need for dialysis or transplantation but also increases the risk and incidence of cardiovascular disease. When someone has CKD and a stroke or heart attack, their survival from the event also decreases. Obesity, diabetes, and hypertension all increase the risk for developing CKD (Kramer, 2019).

The typical US diet consists of twice the recommended daily allowance of protein which can cause damage to the kidneys. High sodium diets can increase blood pressure and lead to cardiovascular disease and kidney disease and well as speed the progression of CKD. A diet high

in fruits, vegetables, and dietary fiber helps to prevent CKD and reduce the progress of CKD to ESRD (Kramer, 2019).

I support the resolution and hope that next March I will see Public Service Announcements and programs throughout the community to improve awareness of kidney disease and how to prevent it.

Mahalo for your time.

References

Kramer H. (2019). Diet and Chronic Kidney Disease. *Advances in nutrition (Bethesda, Md.)*, 10(Suppl_4), S367–S379. <https://doi.org/10.1093/advances/nmz011>

Lin, Y. C., Chang, Y. H., Yang, S. Y., Wu, K. D., & Chu, T. S. (2018). Update of pathophysiology and management of diabetic kidney disease. *Journal of the Formosan Medical Association = Taiwan yi zhi*, 117(8), 662–675. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfma.2018.02.007>

HCR-28

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 8:55:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2023 1:05:00 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 HCR28 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.



April 12, 2023

The Hon. Joy San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Members of the Committee

The Hon. Chris Lee
Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Members of the Committee

Re: HCR 28 relating to Kidney Awareness Month

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Lee and members of the committees,

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. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Hon. Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

The Hon. Chris Lee, Chair
The Hon. Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Senate Transportation and Culture and the Arts Committee

April 12, 2023

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

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



April 12, 2023 at 1:05 pm
Conference Room 225

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

To: Chair Chris Lee
Vice Chair Lorraine R. Inouye

From: Hilton Raethel
President and CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Support
HCR 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, and in Hawaii. 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.

As we all have or know someone affected by these diseases, it is important to bring further awareness to this topic, and to support initiatives that address kidney disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important issue.

Beth Ann Kozlovich
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825

April 12, 2023

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Chair Chris Lee, Senate Transportation and Culture and the Arts Committee
Vice Chair Henry Aquino, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, Senate Transportation and Culture and the Arts Committee
Members of the Committees
Via Electronic Submission

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

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Inouye, and members
of the committees!

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 12, 2023

Chair Joy San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Henry Aquino
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Chair Chris Lee
Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Re: HCR 28, March Kidney Awareness Month

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the committees!

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