

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 28
DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MARCH
AS HAWAII KIDNEY AWARENESS MONTH**

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

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

Hearing Date: March 24, 2023

Room Number: Conference Room 225
& Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports Senate Concurrent
3 Resolution 28 (S.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.



March 24, 2023

The Hon. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Hon. Henry Aquino, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Hon. Chris Lee, Chair
The Hon. Lorraine Inouye, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture & the Arts

Members of the Committees

Re: SCR 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.

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March 24, 2023 at 1:00 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
SCR 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. 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, which is quite alarming. It is also prudent to know that socioeconomic factors can also play a vital role in these statistics.

As we all have or know someone affected by these diseases, it is incredibly important to bring further awareness to this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important issue.

Date: March 23, 2023

To: Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Health & Human Services Committee and Transportation, Culture & the Arts

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

Public Hearing: Friday, March 24, 2023, at 1:00 PM, Conf Rm 225

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 Senate, 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 is working towards the development of a repository of healthcare data essential to managing kidney disease. To do so, we are working 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 SCR 28.



Testimony of
John Kirimitsu
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

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

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

March 24, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

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

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Lee, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 28, which Designates the Month of March as Hawaii Kidney Awareness Month.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SCR 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 SCR 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 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



Government Relations

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.



An Affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Friday, March 24, 2023
Conference Room 225/Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

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

Good afternoon, Chairs San Buenaventura, Lee; Vice Chairs Aquino, Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committee on 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 SCR 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!



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: March 24, 2023

Re: Testimony in support of SCR28: 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 SCR28, 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.



Hawaii Medical Association

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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: March 24, 2023

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Bernard Robinson, MD, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: SCR 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=Hawai'i'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>

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2023 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

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

March 24, 2023

Chairs San Buenaventura and Lee
Vice Chairs Aquino and Inouye
Members of the Senate Committees on Health & Human Services and
Transportation and Culture & the Arts

Re: SCR 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