



HCR32/HR21

**REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO IDENTIFY THE SCOPE OF
NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
ADDRESSING NATIVE HAWAIIAN DISPARITIES**
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

April 2, 2024

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HCR32/HR21**, which urges the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to identify the scope of Native Hawaiian cultural appropriateness to address Native Hawaiian disparities. **This resolution recognizes and addresses the disparities Hawaiians face in all aspects of life, such as health, housing, education, economics, and identity, here in our homeland.**

The Native Hawaiian community has faced historical injustices and ongoing structural racism that have resulted in significant socio-political-economic challenges. Public Law 103-150, the Apology Resolution, recognizes these challenges and underscores the State's responsibility to continuously enhance the conditions for Native Hawaiians.

OHA's 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola, encompasses four directions: educational pathways, health outcomes, quality housing, and economic stability. These directions are grounded in three foundations: ‘ohana (family), mo‘omeheu (culture), and ‘āina. Our strategic plan acknowledges that achieving economic stability, educational success, health, and well-being for Native Hawaiians necessitates defining cultural appropriateness through a Native Hawaiian ‘ano.

The inherent capacity of Native Hawaiians to formulate solutions based on our rich cultural heritage and traditional knowledge is evident. Integrating Native Hawaiian cultural appropriateness into policy processes is not only respectful but also essential for effective decision-making and implementation that addresses the distinctive needs and aspirations of the community.



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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is the principal public agency responsible for seeking the betterment of conditions for Native Hawaiians and is well-positioned to spearhead this effort. OHA is eager to collaborate with relevant stakeholders and Native Hawaiian communities to ensure that the findings and recommendations accurately reflect the diverse needs and perspectives within the community. We also look forward to bringing together decision-makers in state government with our community to ensure discussions will lead to actionable change. By identifying the scope of Native Hawaiian cultural appropriateness, particularly in priority areas such as economic development, education, health, and housing, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs—along with community and government partners—can pave the way for more comprehensive and effective policies not only for our community but for every community in Hawai‘i.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS HCR32/HR1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

HCR-32

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 3:53:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/2/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Wailana Kukila	Aloha Consultants	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

RE: House Concurrent Resolution 32 / House Resolution 21

Position: Support

Aloha Chair and Committee Members of the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

This testimony is in support of HCR32 / HR21 and I offer the following amendments:

1. Add: Requires Office of Hawaiian Affairs to include actual members of the community on the Task Force to ensure public input is not relegated to a footnote in a report;

2. Add: Clarify the term, "culturally appropriate":

In lines 19-25:

3. Add: "legal advocacy" to the list of disparities to be addressed;

4. Strike: "development" from the term, "economic development needs,

5. Add: "The Task Force will analyze the use of HRS5.7-5 to measure its effectiveness as a policy here in the Aloha State by government leaders and residents:

[§5-7.5] "Aloha Spirit". (a) "Aloha Spirit" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, "Aloha", the following unuhi laula loa may be used:

"Akahai", meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness;

"Lokahi", meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony;

"Oluolu", meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness;

"Haahaa", meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty;

"Ahonui", meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance.

These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaii's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawaii. "Aloha" is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. "Aloha" means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. "Aloha" is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. "Aloha" means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

(b) In exercising their power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people, the legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, executive officers of each department, the chief justice, associate justices, and judges of the appellate, circuit, and district courts may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the "Aloha Spirit". [L 1986, c 202, §1]"

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs and other Hawaiian Trusts must take on more than just putting a flower in the ear of the government such as determining what "culturally appropriate services" means in public policy. It is a well-known fact that Hawaiians hold the lowest statistics in areas of health and other areas, which means these Trusts are failing in their fiduciary and duties of care for their beneficiaries.

What is good for Hawaiians is good for the entire community, and in Hawai'i, this is especially true. Our historical trauma has brought us to this point, and as part of this, it is important to hold accountable those who have our wealth tied up in their systems which are meant to serve us.

The gatekeepers of our waiwai, our wealth, must manage their kahawai better so it serves those both upstream and downstream. We should not see Hawaiians at the bottom of all society's statistics, therefore, it is imperative that the our waiwai flow freely and not tied up in administration, investments, and land acquisition and development while beneficiaries and our neighborhoods run dry and suffer economically and in other serious ways.

As I support this measure, I urge the members of the Hawai'i State Legislature to examine their own actions and how they have upheld the law of expressing and emoting Aloha which is codified in our statutes.

In summary, Aloha Consultants, as a native owned company, supports these measures and respectfully requests that the amendments suggested be honored.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on these measures.

Me ke aloha,

Shana W. Kukila

Aloha Consultants

Hilo, Hawai'i

HCR-32

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 6:06:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/2/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Huh? Say what? 'A'ole hiki maopopo ia'u ka mana'o o keia 'olelo ho'oholo HCR32/HR21. Such bafflegab should have been scheduled for hearing on April 1, in honor of the cultural significance of that date.