



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 11, 2024

The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Marten, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SCR166 SD1 REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities is in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR166 SD1**, which urges the Governor and pertinent state agencies to commit to providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Preliminarily indicates that Native Hawaiians, along with Filipinos, may be contending with more severe levels of disability, emphasizing the urgent necessity for targeted support systems within these communities¹. Furthermore, the existing health disparities prevalent in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations, highlight the potential for a disparity in healthcare provisions for Native Hawaiians with IDD, given the overarching health inequities faced by this demographic².

Moreover, while it has been observed that there are fewer individuals with DD within the Native Hawaiian population, a study suggests that this discrepancy may stem from a lack of adequate screening and education on the symptoms of DD among Native Hawaiian populations. The authors posit that cultural beliefs, alongside potentially lower awareness of DD symptoms compared to their White counterparts, may contribute to this underrepresentation.

¹ Preliminary findings from: Wong, Kamana'opono M., et al. "Prevalence, Health and Resource Utilization, and Unmet Healthcare Needs of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Children With Developmental Disabilities." *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2019, pp. 241-249, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332794551_Prevalence_Health_and_Resource_Utilization_and_Unmet_Healthcare_Needs_of_Native_Hawaiian_and_Pacific_Islander_Children_With_Developmental_Disabilities.

²For health disparities in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations: "Health Disparities in Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Populations." National Library of Medicine, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK595255/>.

Thus, it becomes imperative to address these gaps in awareness and healthcare access through culturally appropriate resources and programs, as advocated by SCR166 SD1.

SCR166 SD 1 represents a crucial step towards ensuring equitable access to support and services tailored to the unique cultural needs of Native Hawaiian communities with IDD. By prioritizing culturally appropriate resources and programs, we can enhance the well-being and inclusion of Native Hawaiian individuals and families with IDD, promoting stronger connections to their cultural heritage and promoting holistic approaches to care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR166 SD1**.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



SCR166/SR140

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND PERTINENT STATE AGENCIES TO COMMIT TO
PROVIDE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR
NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Committee on Human Services

April 11, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SCR166/SR140**, which urges the Governor and pertinent state agencies to commit to providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We must acknowledge the unique challenges faced by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities within our community. These conditions are lifelong and require specialized support that is tailored to each individual's specific needs. A one-size-fits-all approach fails to recognize the inherent diversity within our community and hinders one's full integration into society.

I ka wā kahiko (In the time long before), Native Hawaiian family structures provided a framework for caring for individuals with disabilities, but these structures have been eroded by historical injustices. It is incumbent upon us to rectify these injustices and restore the support systems that sustained our community for generations. By supporting culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for people with IDD, the Legislature will take a large step forward in addressing these historical injustices.

This resolution is not merely a matter of policy, but rather a moral imperative deeply rooted in the values of equity, inclusion, and cultural preservation. As a community, we must take action to ensure that everyone feels valued and supported. Together, we can create a better future for all by providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs to affirm the dignity and worth of every Native Hawaiian individual with IDD.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS SCR166**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/11/2024

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Resolution Title: SCR 0166, SD1 REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

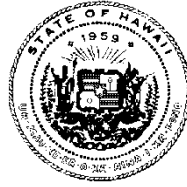
Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 0166, SD1.

The Department has developed Nā Hopena A'o or Hā outcomes, which are grounded in Hawaiian cultural values. These outcomes serve as guiding principles for all learners, reflecting the Department's commitment to cultural relevance and inclusivity. Specifically, the Department aims to ensure that Native Hawaiian individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities and their families have access to adapted and modified resources, services, and programs to support their achievement of these outcomes. This commitment extends to providing services with cultural humility, encouraging educational staff and related service providers to engage in continuous self-exploration, self-critique, and learning from others in order to better serve Native Hawaiian students and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 9, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **[SCR 166 SD1](#): REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.**

Hearing: April 11, 2024, 11:00 am
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this resolution.

PURPOSE: This resolution reaffirms the State's commitment to providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD).

The Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Health and Human Services (SD1) amended the measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

DHS supports the resolution that would affirm that providing culturally relevant care for individuals and families experiencing intellectual or developmental disabilities is a key component to improved outcomes for individuals and families. The provision of culturally

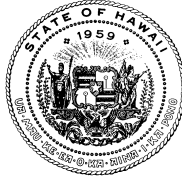
April 9, 2024

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appropriate services is an important approach for system and provider-level interventions to “honor the intrinsic individuality of every person with an intellectual and developmental disability,” as stated in this resolution. DHS remains committed to supporting practices that honor and build on “Native Hawaiian family-based and communal structures established systems of effective care for individuals of all ages, including the most vulnerable members of society.”

By recognizing cultural strengths and approaches, this resolution articulates a positive step to address health disparities by respecting individuals' dignity and improving access to care for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution.



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR166 SD1

REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES,
AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

REPRESENTATIVE LISA MARTEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing: 04/11/24
Conference Room 329
11:00 am

- 1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health supports SCR166 SD1.
2 **Department Testimony:** The Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) provides the following
3 testimony on behalf of the Department of Health.

4 The Department supports SCR166 SD1. Native Hawaiian families experience a higher
5 burden of disability than other populations. Additionally, there is a need for service systems to
6 engage with families and individuals so supports can be provided in ways that reflect cultural
7 realities and needs, especially important in the ongoing relationships with families and
8 individuals, including in assessment and service planning. There is a strong need for culturally-
9 based practices and competencies in State agencies to ensure services feel safe, honor the
10 Native Hawaiian culture, and respect the role of trusted individuals and family members in
11 service planning and delivery. Because of the disparities that exist for many Native Hawaiians in
12 accessing healthcare and services, culturally-appropriate services are critical for system and
13 provider level interventions to reduce disparities.

14 Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None



To: The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
The Honorable Terez Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Thursday, April 11, 2024, 11:00 AM, Conference Room 329

RE: **SCR166 SD1 – Reaffirming the State's Commitment to Providing Culturally Appropriate Resources, Services, and Programs for Native Hawaiian Individuals and Families Experiencing Intellectual Developmental Disabilities.**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SCR166 SD1**. This measure urges the Governor and the Legislature to commit to providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 84,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 40 percent of our members are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare is committed to improving access to high-quality care for all people regardless of disability status or ethnic and cultural background. We believe it is important to embrace the rich diversity and cultures of Hawai'i's people as resources for wellness. Culturally appropriate approaches to health are foundational to our *Ke Aloha Mau* program, supporting whole-person care through traditional, cultural, and spiritual healing methods. At no cost to our members, the program makes available Native Hawaiian healing services – (1) lomilomi: physiotherapy and massage, (2) 'ai pono: healthy food and meals, (3) hula: physical movement and dance, and (4) ho'oponopono: balancing of relationships.

The program is provided in collaboration with community health centers, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, and cultural practitioners.

As part of our commitment to ensuring access to care, we support removing barriers to viable treatment modalities, especially for populations with significant health



disparities and less access to or trust in Western healthcare. We appreciate this measure and applaud the Legislature's leadership and commitment to improving the quality of life for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as to ensuring the provision of culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian communities.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SCR166 SD1**.