



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

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Shimabukuro, Senator Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SCR166/SR140 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/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 (IDD).

Preliminary findings indicate 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. [OB]

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.

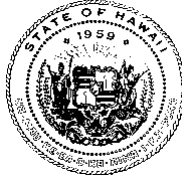
SCR166/SR140 represents a crucial step towards ensuring equitable access to support and services tailored to the unique cultural needs of Native Hawaiian communities with IDD. By prioritizing culturally appropriate resources and programs, we can enhance the well-being and inclusion of Native Hawaiian 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/SR140**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daintry Bartoldus,
Executive Administrator



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 / SR140

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

SENATOR MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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

Hearing: 03/28/2024
Conference Room 224
1:00 pm

- 1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health supports SCR166 / SR140.
- 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 / SR140 for many reasons, among them the higher
5 burden of disability for Native Hawaiian families, and the need for service systems to engage
6 with families and individuals so services can be provided that reflect their needs and cultural
7 realities. This is especially important for the ongoing relationships with families and individuals,
8 including in assessment and service planning. There is a strong need for culturally-based
9 practices and competencies in State agencies to ensure services feel safe, honor the Native
10 Hawaiian culture, and respect the role of trusted individuals and family members in service
11 planning and delivery. Because of the disparities that exist for many Native Hawaiians in
12 accessing healthcare and services, culturally-appropriate services are an important approach
13 for system and provider level interventions to reduce disparities.

14 Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

1 **Offered Amendments:** None

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: 03/28/2024

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: CR 224 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Health and Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Resolution Title: SCR 0166 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.

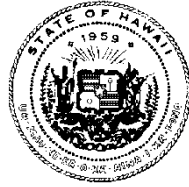
The Department has developed Nā Hopena A'o or Hā outcomes, which are grounded in Hawaiian cultural values. These outcomes serve as guiding principles for all learners, reflecting the Department's commitment to cultural relevance and inclusivity. Specifically, the Department aims to ensure that Native 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.

March 26, 2024

Page 1

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 26, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [SCR 166/SR 140](#): REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Hearing: March 28, 2024, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & 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).

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

March 26, 2024

Page 2

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
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 21, 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: HCR33 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.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities stands in **support of HCR33**, 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).

Preliminary findings indicate 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 communities.¹ 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 demographic.²

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

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.

² For 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/>.

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.³ Thus, it becomes imperative to address these gaps in awareness and healthcare access through culturally appropriate resources and programs, as advocated by HCR33.

HCR33 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 **support of HCR33**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus,
Executive Administrator

³ Underrepresentation of individuals with DD within the Native Hawaiian population due to lack of screening and education: Wong, Kamana'o pono 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.



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

**Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

March 28, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 224

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.



**Autism Support and
Disabilities Center, Inc.**

**PO Box 11185
Hilo, HI 96721
(808) 339-8726**

Testimony in Support of SCR 166 / SR 140: Reaffirming the State's Commitment to Culturally Appropriate Services

Honorable Senators and Committee Members,

Aloha! My name is Rosalinda Larkin, and I live in the Big Island District 1. I am also the Founder of the ASDC—Autism Support and Disability Center, a Nonprofit organization on the Big Island. I am here today to express my strong support for SCR 166 and SR 140, which emphasize the importance of culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for our Native Hawaiian communities, Filipinos, and individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

1. Cultural Sensitivity and Inclusion:

- Our state's commitment to cultural sensitivity is vital. We must recognize and honor the unique cultural practices, beliefs, and traditions of Native Hawaiians and Filipinos.
- By providing services that align with their cultural values, we can better address their needs and foster a sense of belonging.
- With its focus on cultural sensitivity, we hope that HR22 will promote the involvement of immediate and extended family members to assist those with developmental disabilities, consistent with the longstanding values of our Native Hawaiian and Filipino communities.
- We can tailor programs and services based on their culture. In that case, it will be easier for individuals with developmental disabilities to engage and trust the program services and professional providers and build trust in the communities.

2. Resources for Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities:

- Individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities deserve equitable access to resources. Considering their cultural backgrounds, these resources should be tailored to their needs.
- Collaboration with community organizations, disability advocates, and families is essential to ensure comprehensive and practical support.
- ASDC hosted its 2nd Annual Collaboration, Education, and Sustainability for Parents of Children with Autism on January 19, 2024. How can we better serve people with Autism and other developmental disabilities? What resources and services can we offer based on their needs?

3. Collaboration and Partnerships:

- Let us strengthen partnerships between government agencies, nonprofits, and community-based organizations.
- Together, we can create a support network that empowers Native Hawaiians, Filipinos, and individuals with disabilities to thrive.
- ASDC's brought 17 community partners during the Collaboration to link individuals with disabilities to all the professional provider assistance.

4. Education and Awareness:

- Promote awareness campaigns to educate the public about the unique challenges faced by these communities.
- Encourage cultural competency training for service providers to enhance their ability to serve diverse populations.
- ASDC participated in the Crisis Intervention Training of 21 Police Officers last year and this year in Kona and Hilo.
- I am one of the educators in neurodevelopmental Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

5. Accessible Services:

- Ensure that services are accessible physically, linguistically, and culturally.
- Invest in community centers, outreach programs, and language-specific materials.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our commitment to inclusivity, cultural respect, and equity. Services. By doing so, we honor the rich heritage of Native Hawaiians, Filipinos, and all individuals with disabilities.

Mahalo for your dedication to our community's well-being. I urge you to support SCR 166 and SR 140.

Sincerely,

Rosalinda Larkin
172 Alaloa Rd Hilo Hawaii 96720
rxlarkin@yahoo.com
808-3398726

SCR-166

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 9:34:42 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Kilgore	Testifying for Full Life Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Full Life is in support of SCR166. It is important to ensure equitable access to Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD) services tailored to the needs of Native Hawaiian communities. This bill reaffirms the inclusion of Native Hawaiian individuals with I/DD and their families by prioritizing culturally appropriate resources and programs.



To: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

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

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

Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2024, 1:00 PM, Conference Room 224

RE: **SCR166/SR140 – 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 and SR140**. These measures urge 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 these measures 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 and SR140.**



Apoākea
INFINITE REACH
**NATIVE HAWAIIAN
INNOVATION
INSTITUTE**
EIN# 83-2973746

SCR166 / SR140
Thursday, March 28, 2024 - 1:00pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Aloha nō e Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs a me Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

‘Apoākea (literally meaning “Infinite Reach”) Native Hawaiian Innovation Institute [ANHII] is a Native Hawaiian-led 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded with the purpose of providing strategic and tactical solutions to issues causing & contributing to the negative consequences of disproportionality & disparity as they are suffered by socially disadvantaged & underserved communities that include, but are not limited to: Native Hawaiians and individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (ID/D) & their families. Our work is heavily focused on addressing gap areas in resources, services, and programs impacting individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities & their families.

In our personal and professional experience and expertise in working with Native Hawaiians and individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities & their families, we have determined that there is a detrimental disconnect between culture and the way diagnosis, services, and care are delivered. This disconnect creates an additional barrier to success where there is already so much to navigate and overcome. We firmly believe that statewide awareness, support, and accessibility for culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs would yield greater outcomes and have a profoundly positive impact on the quality of life for individuals living with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

‘Apoākea appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this measure.

Me ka mahalo piha,

Brandi-Lynn Makalani Kupau Hyden
Executive Director

SCR-166

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 8:54:51 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SCR166. Hawaii's local population has long been neglected in our own state. Others with stronger voices have been heard by our governments, but those that born and raised their entire lives here are not heard because of the culture that we have been raised in. I know as someone of Japanese and Hawaiian ancestry, raised after Pearl Harbor. Don't make waves and disrupt the institutions created by outsiders due to colonization. We are probably closer to more than 80% of the population, but are not here to benefit and profit off of others. This is our home that other want to drive us out. Our culture is one of caring and taking care of our own, a whole village has the responsibility of raising a child. But at times it hinders an individuals' progress in life by not pushing them out to find their strengths or make mistakes on their own, rather than their weaknesses seen by their ohana.

My experiences staying in Hana, Maui during the pandemic was a prime example. If parents of the community did not send their children away to high schools in other communities or private boarding schools on Oahu, they could not experience the modern lifestyle of American societies. I warned them that people, even their own ohana would take their properties away, just by say falling on the land and suing them or even community facilities. But Mayor Victorino did listen to this small community and closed them off for awhile, but others still got in to take advantage to profit off of the beauty of Hana. This is a problem brought to our islands through colonization and living the American dream!

My own siblings needed these services because my mother couldn't depend on others to take care of her children. Her lived experiences as a Japanese American with parents brought to Hawaii for the fields in Maui and as the oldest had to continue the contract and held dual citizenship. Even though married twice, she realized she had to survive on her own and worked at various jobs just to make ends meet. After 7 other children, my mother appeared to others as my grandmother. But she was able to guide me to make better choices in life in school, jobs and even choosing partners. I followed her, visiting friends and family who needed help ironing clothes, sewing, babysitting and housekeeping and even as a hotel maid. I learned that helping others with aloha was the biggest gift you could give others! Thus the Peer Support Specialists program is so important in life!

Support SCR166!

SCR-166

Submitted on: 3/24/2024 10:06:46 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support

SCR-166

Submitted on: 3/23/2024 2:12:57 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/28/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services

Vaikeola Richards, Rev. NHI, ICFG, BSW
Graduate Student, University of Hawai'i Mānoa
Kahu Hoalauna, New Hope Oahu

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Support for SCR 166/ SR 140, Ref: REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

As a member of our community, as a Native Hawaiian, and as a social worker I fully support reaffirming the State's commitment to providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian individuals and families experiencing intellectual developmental disabilities.

The Native Hawaiian community has been marginalized in their own homeland. Those experiencing intellectual developmental disabilities face a compounded marginalization. Continued programs, supported by the State, will help in resolving the disparity and marginalization of this special needs group within our community. We support the passing of SCR 166/SR 140. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.