

**Jennifer Kagiwada**  
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



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**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2**  
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: April 18, 2024  
TO: House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs  
FROM: Jenn Kagiwada  
Council Member, District 2  
SUBJECT: Support SCR 13 SD1

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee,

I am writing you in strong support of SCR 13 SD1. Attached is Hawai'i County Council Resolution 449-24, which was passed unanimously on March 20, 2024, by our members and which, in part, urges the Hawai'i State Legislature to adopt Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13.

As elected leaders of our communities it is imperative that we do not sit silently by; as a voice for our people we must use our voice to promote peace and save lives.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn L. Kagiwada".

JENN L. KAGIWADA  
Council Member, District 2

COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I



STATE OF HAWAI‘I

**RESOLUTION NO. 449 24**

(DRAFT 3)

**A RESOLUTION DEMONSTRATING THE ALOHA SPIRIT AND FOSTERING PEACE, DIPLOMACY, AND UNITY WITHIN THE COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I, THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I, AND BEYOND.**

**WHEREAS**, March 5th is the United Nations’ International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 77/51, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 7th, 2022, emphasizes the urgent need to increase education around disarmament and non-proliferation, recognizes the significant role of governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia, and the media in educating the public about how disarmament efforts can provide peace and security for all the world’s people; and

**WHEREAS**, between October 7, 2023 and February 29, 2024, armed violence has claimed the lives of approximately 30,000 Palestinians and 1,200 Israelis, and wounded tens of thousands more, the vast majority of whom are civilians; and

**WHEREAS**, during times of conflict and war, there is a significant increase in the incidence of sexual violence, hostage situations, and other human rights violations, leading to humanitarian crises and making efforts to foster peace all the more necessary to prevent such atrocities and uphold the dignity of all individuals impacted by armed conflict; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to this ongoing conflict in Gaza, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13, recently introduced in the Hawai‘i State Senate, urges members of Hawai‘i’s congressional delegation to support the Ceasefire in Gaza Resolution introduced by United States Congresswoman Cori Bush; and

**WHEREAS**, in the words of the late Aunty Pilahi Pahi, a beloved Native Hawaiian poet, philosopher, linguist, educator, songwriter, author, and spiritual guide, “the world will turn to Hawai‘i as they search for world peace because Hawai‘i has the key; and that key is ALOHA”; and

**WHEREAS**, section 5-7.5, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, states that the Aloha Spirit “was presented as a gift to the people of Hawai‘i”, and further characterizes Aloha as mutual regard and affection and the belief that each person is important to our collective existence; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Hawai‘i (“the County”) values the principles of peace, diplomacy, and civic discourse as fundamental pillars for fostering harmonious relationships and believes that dialogue, understanding, and cooperation are essential tools to build bridges and create a more inclusive and tolerant society among its residents and the global community; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the interconnectedness of our world and the importance of collaboration in addressing shared challenges, and the inherent dignity and rights of individuals, regardless of their race, color, religion, gender, ethnicity, age, ability, or any other characteristic, the County is committed to actively promoting diplomacy and peaceful resolutions to conflicts and disputes with Aloha; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I** that this body affirms its commitment to seek and promote peace, diplomacy, and civil discourse at the county level and to demonstrate globally the values of understanding, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence with Aloha.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County hereby recognizes and supports the United Nations’ International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County encourages local educational institutions, community organizations, and citizens to join the County in observance of the United Nations’ International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness by participating in activities and initiatives that raise awareness and understanding of global disarmament issues and principles that contribute to the greater good of humanity with Aloha.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this body supports and hereby urges the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13 by the Hawai‘i State Legislature.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the County Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Joshua B. Green, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai‘i; the Honorable Brian E. Schatz, United States Senator; the Honorable Mazie K. Hirono, United

States Senator; the Honorable Edward Case, United States Representative; the Honorable Jill Tokuda, United States Representative; the Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President of the Hawai'i Senate; the Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker of the Hawai'i House of Representatives; the Honorable Mitchell D. Roth, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i; the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Mayor of the County of Maui; the Honorable Richard Blangiardi, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; and the Honorable Derek S. K. Kawakami, Mayor of the County of Kaua'i.

Dated at Kona, Hawai'i, this 20th day of March, 2024.

INTRODUCED BY:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

INTRODUCED BY:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

COUNTY COUNCIL  
 County of Hawai'i  
 Hilo, Hawai'i

I hereby certify that the foregoing RESOLUTION was by the vote indicated to the right hereof adopted by the COUNCIL of the County of Hawai'i on March 20, 2024.

ATTEST:

  
 COUNTY CLERK    CHAIRPERSON & PRESIDING OFFICER

ROLL CALL VOTE

	AYES	NOES	ABS	EX
EVANS	X			
GALIMBA	X			
INABA	X			
KAGIWADA	X			
KĀNEALI'I-KLEINFELDER	X			
KIERKIEWICZ	X			
KIMBALL	X			
LEE LOY			X	
VILLEGAS	X			
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Reference: C-754.64/GOEAG-120

RESOLUTION NO. 449 24

(DRAFT 3)

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:06:32 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Egbo	Syced Investigations, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

My testimony today is in unwavering support of SCR13 and I implore your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. It is imperative for its formal adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. I urge you to align with your constituents and utilize your influential institutional voice to demand that our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s significant influence over Israel to bring an immediate end to the violence in Gaza.

The shocking escalation of conflict between Israel and Hamas, along with other armed groups, has exacted a devastating toll on civilians. The scale of casualties is unfathomable. Over 33,000 Palestinian civilians have perished since October 7th, with an additional 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The overwhelming majority of these victims are women and children. Furthermore, more than 70,000 individuals have been wounded, many left with appalling, lifelong disfigurements.

Israel's relentless siege on Gaza has resulted in the blockade of essential goods, including water, food, and fuel, leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip in a desperate struggle for survival. The humanitarian crisis stemming from Israel's illegal 16-year-long blockade on occupied Gaza will only worsen if the violence persists.

A ceasefire is imperative to cease unlawful attacks by all parties, stem the rising death toll in Gaza, and facilitate the delivery of life-saving aid, water, and medical supplies to address the staggering human suffering. It will also enable hospitals to receive vital medicines, fuel, and equipment they direly require and repair damaged facilities.

Moreover, a ceasefire presents an opportunity to negotiate the release of hostages held in Gaza and allows for independent international investigations into the war crimes committed by all parties, thus ending long-standing impunity that perpetuates further atrocities.

The current conflict poses a grave risk of escalating into a broader regional war. The most effective means of preventing this is to halt the genocide in Gaza. Addressing the root causes of this conflict, including dismantling Israel's apartheid system imposed on Palestinians, is now

more urgent than ever. This cannot be achieved as long as violence persists. Human rights for all!

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:40:38 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nawahine Kahoopii	Nawahine-Kahoopii Ohana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nawahine Kahoopii. I support SCR13. I am speaking today representing the Nawahine Kahoopii ohana; WE ARE WATCHING THIS BRUTAL GENOCIDAL MASSACRE LIVE-STREAMED 24/7

The genocide in Palestine is a colossal artificial catastrophe of our time. An immediate and permanent ceasefire, the reinstatement of UNWRA, massive humanitarian aid, and deoccupation are all essential first steps. Our community must stand on the right side of history at this critical time.

The reality on the ground in Palestine, according to the UN:

- 3 UN calls for a ceasefire, the US being the only veto
- 40,000 + slaughtered
- 10,000 under the rubble, buried alive, left to die
- 15,000 children murdered; a child is murdered every 15 minutes
- 340 medical staff members were targeted and murdered
- A breaking number of 130 journalists targeted and murdered
- 136 UN /Humanitarian staff members were murdered, hundreds detained and tortured
- Record-setting- 1-6 children starving, the fastest decline in nutritional status the world has ever seen
- 90% of kids under 5 battling multiple infections due to sanitation

conditions, starvation, no clean water

- Record-setting 69,000 tons of explosives have been dropped on communities, hospitals, schools, and UN safe shelters.
- C-sections and amputations are conducted with no anesthesia or pain medication
- 83% of water sources were destroyed
- 350,000 illnesses untreated
- Desecration of burials
- Bulldozing alive the injured camped outside the hospital
  
- Israel has been condemned in 45 UN resolutions by UNHRC
- 28 condemnations in the UN Security Council

- ICJ- a pillar of the UN structure: “Not only has Israel created one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, but it is also displaying a callous indifference to the fate of Gaza’s population by creating conditions that the ICJ has said places them at imminent risk of genocide.”
- Eighty eight countries formally joined the charges of genocide, with many more countries signing on or filing separate complaints.
- Human Rights Watch verified Israel’s use of white phosphorus munitions through interviews and videos. The use of white phosphorus is a war crime.

I leave you with this profound and relevant statement by Aunty Pillahi: “It is a wise person who rights a wrong but a fool who wrongs a right.”  
Pass this legislation today.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 4:24:06 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I speak in strong support of SCR13 unamended calling for an immediate and permanent CEASEFIRE in Gaza to stop the killing, starvation, and Genocide taking place as we speak. I am proud of Hawaii County passing a similar resolution and the State Senate as well. With the House passage of this resolution, this will be a powerful statement to the US Congress and the world to follow.

An immediate and permanent Ceasefire is an important first step to get massive humanitarian aid to Gaza to prevent further starvation. It is also an important step to gain the release of all hostages and prisoners and to prevent a widening war in the Middle East. A Ceasefire is what Gaza and the whole Middle East need now. Frankly, a Ceasefire is what the whole world needs now. Mahalo for taking this action for a Ceasefire and Peace. It is a blessing and a victory for All.

Jim Albertini, President of Malu 'Aina

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 4:53:00 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Wake	Trinity United Methodist Church	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Sincerely praying for Peace,

Rev. Amy Chieko Wake

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:39:29 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Lokahi Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

IF we value each life, we MUST STAND FOR PEACE.

Sylvia Dolena  
Aloha Lokahi Association  
Mountain View, HI 96771

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 8:36:20 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	HULI PAC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, members of the committee,

HULI PAC is testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo  
Maki Morinoue  
HULI PAC, Chair  
Hawai'i Island, Holualoa, 96725

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:16:51 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephen Louis Paulmier	Malu’Aina	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wed. April 17, 2024

Aloha Legislators,

I speak in strong support of SCR13 **unamended** calling for an immediate and permanent CEASEFIRE in Gaza to stop the killing, starvation, and Genocide taking place as we consider this action. I am proud of Hawaii County passing a similar resolution and the State Senate as well. With the House passage of this resolution, this will be a powerful statement to the US Congress and the world to follow.

An immediate and permanent Ceasefire is an important first step to get massive humanitarian aid to Gaza to prevent further starvation. It is also an important step to gain the release of all hostages and prisoners and to prevent a widening war in the Middle East. A Ceasefire is what Gaza and the whole Middle East need now. Frankly, a Ceasefire is what the whole world needs now. Mahalo for taking this action for a Ceasefire and Peace. It is a blessing and a victory for All.

Stephen Louis Paulmier of Hilo

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:45:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aaron Huber	Autotech Kona	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

Israel's targeting of Palestinian children continues, as the IOF just struck a playground near Maghazi refugee camp, slaughtering 20 people, including 11 children, and leaving dozens wounded.

I've also just learned the story of Sally Abi Laila, aged just 5 years old, who was shot in the head by Israeli forces whilst being carried by her mother. Her mother, Sabreen, told CNN that her daughter was in her arms, as they were trying to return to their homes in the North, when the Israeli soldiers shot her.

A doctor from California who spent 5 weeks in Gaza is quoted: "I was thinking about this young boy who was about 10 years old, who was walking down the street with his sister, probably four or five years old, and a missile struck right next to them and blew out his brains from the left side of the skull. He came into me kind of taking his last breaths and it was this dystopian image in my mind because his sister was right next to him screaming. Shrapnel sheared her right buttock off her body and it was like this horror movie that I was living in real life." -Dr. Mohammad Subeh

There are 9,500+ Palestinians held captive by the Israeli occupation who face medical negligence, sexual assault, and torture.

This indiscriminate violence and genocidal military assault by the Israeli government and its violent settlers in West Bank must not be allowed to continue.





# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

April 19, 2024

10:00 AM

Conference Room 430

**In SUPPORT of SCR13 SD1: URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA.**

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Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SCR13 SD1**, which seeks to address an ongoing humanitarian and environmental catastrophe that has already claimed tens of thousands of human lives, and that threatens to leave a growing legacy of devastation and abject injustice that will shape the fates of multiple future generations.

**The Sierra Club as a national organization has not taken a position on the particular issue of a ceasefire in Gaza.** However, in addition to the international humanitarian issues arising from this unprecedented crisis – including the documented impacts on children, infants, journalists, and medical and aid workers, as well as International Court of Justice orders that highlight the imminent threat of genocide – **the Sierra Club of Hawai'i believes that the established policy positions of the Sierra Club can lead to no other conclusion than to support an immediate ceasefire, as urged by the Gaza Resolution referenced in this measure.**

First, Sierra Club's Water Policy recognizes that "Water quality and water quantity are integral to issues such as energy, land use, and maintenance of a healthy environment for plants, wildlife and humanity. Access to potable, sufficient and affordable water is a human right."<sup>1</sup> In direct contravention to this policy statement, the governmental denial of peoples' access to clean water has been well documented in Gaza and the West Bank even well before the current crisis,<sup>2</sup> which has now reportedly deprived displaced residents and children of the minimal amounts of water needed for survival.<sup>3</sup> Contamination from military actions also threatens to destroy regional water sources and deprive future generations of access to clean and sufficient water in the Gaza region, potentially indefinitely.<sup>4</sup> Without an immediate

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<sup>1</sup> Sierra Club, Water Policy, <https://www.sierraclub.org/policy/water-policy> (last accessed March 7, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g. Amnesty International, *The Occupation of Water*, November 29, 2017, available at [https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/11/the-occupation-of-water/#:~:text=Israel%20does%20not%20allow%20water.by%20sewage%20and%20seawater%20infiltration](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/11/the-occupation-of-water/#:~:text=Israel%20does%20not%20allow%20water.by%20sewage%20and%20seawater%20infiltration;); The Institute for Middle East Understanding, *Israel's Environmental Apartheid in Palestine*, November 3, 2022 available at <https://imeu.org/article/environmental-apartheid-in-palestine>.

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF, "Barely a Drop to Drink": Children in the Gaza Strip do not access 90 per cent of their normal water use, December 19, 2023, available at <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/barely-drop-drink-children-gaza-strip-do-not-access-90-cent-their-normal-water-use>.

<sup>4</sup> Nancy A. Youssef, et. al., *Israel Begins Pumping Water Into Hamas' Gaza Tunnels*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, December 13, 2023, available at <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/israel-hamas-war-pumping-seawater-gaza-tunnels-2ed3b3f2#>.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

ceasefire, the access to clean, drinkable water essential for healthy people and a healthy environment and that is a basic human right will continue to be deprived for tens if not hundreds of thousands of people, including future generations yet unborn.

Second, the Sierra Club has been long “committed to maintaining the world's remaining natural ecosystems, and, where feasible, to the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems. Wildlife, plants, and their ecosystems have value in their own right, as well as value to humans and to the health of the biosphere.”<sup>5</sup> This policy statement is likewise contravened by the active military violence taking place in Gaza, including the indiscriminate<sup>6</sup> deployment of tens of thousands of bombs<sup>7</sup> and as well as the apparent use of highly toxic white phosphorous<sup>8</sup> in both populated and rural areas - all of which have disrupted, and could irreparably destroy, regional ecosystems and the integrity of the terrestrial and aquatic biospheres. A ceasefire would prevent further destruction of the natural and native ecosystems of the Gaza and surrounding regions, and the attendant, potentially irreparable harms to both humans and the environment.

Third, the Sierra Club has an agricultural policy that supports “healthy and abundant food, fiber and other services for all communities while maintaining the fertility of the soil and protecting the Earth’s climate and the native diversity of plants and animals. . . . Agriculture is also inherently cultural: every system of food production has the capacity to generate not only economic benefits and ecological capital, but also a sense of meaning and connection to natural resources.”<sup>9</sup> The aforementioned destruction of regional water resources, and the contamination of soil from the indiscriminate deployment of military munitions in rural areas, run directly contrary to this policy, and have already led to reports of widespread starvation.<sup>10</sup> A ceasefire would prevent the further loss of generational agricultural and fishing practices critical to the civilian and indigenous communities of Gaza and their continued cultural connection to their lands and natural resources.

Fourth, the Sierra Club has committed to “oppose efforts to dispossess Indigenous peoples of their lands, culture, and their right to self-determination,” and has recognized that “the

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<sup>5</sup> Sierra Club, Wildlife and Native Plants, <https://www.sierraclub.org/policy/wildlife/wildlife-and-native-plants> (last accessed March 7, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> Natasha Bertrand and Katie Bo Lillis, *Exclusive: Nearly half of the Israeli munitions dropped on Gaza are imprecise “dumb bombs,” US intelligence assessment finds*, CNN, December 14, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/13/politics/intelligence-assessment-dumb-bombs-israel-gaza/index.html>.

<sup>7</sup> Julia Frankel, *Israel’s military campaign in Gaza now seen as the most destructive in recent history, experts say*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, January 11, 2024, available at <https://apnews.com/article/israel-gaza-bombs-destruction-death-toll-scope-419488c511f83c85baea22458472a796>.

<sup>8</sup> *Human Rights Watch says Israel used white phosphorous in Gaza, Lebanon*, REUTERS, October 13, 2023, available at <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/human-rights-watch-says-israel-used-white-phosphorous-gaza-lebanon-2023-10-12/>.

<sup>9</sup> Sierra Club, Agriculture and Food, <https://www.sierraclub.org/policy/agriculture/food> (last accessed March 7, 2024).

<sup>10</sup> OXFAM International, *“Golden time” seasonal farming production destroyed and lost in northern Gaza amid mounting fears of worsening hunger and starvation*, February 26, 2024, available at <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/golden-time-seasonal-farming-production-destroyed-and-lost-northern-gaza-amid>.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

exploitation of land goes hand in hand with the exploitation of people.”<sup>11</sup> As detailed by the Progressive Workers Union, representing hundreds of Sierra Club frontline staff working to protect our environment across the United States and Hawai'i, the exploitation and dispossession of indigenous land in Palestine long predates the unprecedented violence seen over the last five months.<sup>12</sup> However, the sheer magnitude of death and destruction, including what has been described as “ecocide,” that has already occurred and that will continue to occur without a ceasefire, threatens an even greater mass dispossession of land, culture, and self-determination of indigenous Palestinians for generations to come.<sup>13</sup>

As a final note, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i has long emphasized the importance of indigenous rights and environmental stewardship as not only a moral imperative, but a key strategy to confront the existential crises that face our islands, as well as our planet as a whole. This strategy has most recently been acknowledged in a recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, which identifies colonialism as a key driver of our climate crisis. Accordingly, in order to give ourselves and our future generations the best chance at a livable and hopeful future, the enforcement of indigenous rights and the protection of our biocultural lands and resources must be pursued not just locally, but on a global scale. An immediate ceasefire to prevent the further wanton destruction of indigenous peoples, lands, resources, and rights, and radical action to rectify the historical and ongoing injustices perpetrated against indigenous peoples and the planet, is therefore both a moral and existential imperative for humanity as a whole.

For the above reasons, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully but strongly urges the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>11</sup> Sierra Club, Indigenous Rights, <https://www.sierraclub.org/equity/journey/indigenous-rights>, last accessed March 7, 2024.

<sup>12</sup> Progressive Workers Union, Ratified PWU Union Wide Resolution in Solidarity with Palestine, November 17, 2023, available at <https://pwunion.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/RATIFIED-PWU-Union-Wide-Resolution-in-Solidarity-with-Palestine.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Emma Pearce, *Israel's ecocide is contributing to the forcible displacement of Gazans*, OPEN GLOBAL RIGHTS, February 9, 2024, available at <https://www.openglobalrights.org/israel-ecocide-contributing-to-forcible-displacement-gazans/>.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 3:42:05 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13, on behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i. We urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i we stand in solidarity with a call for peace and healing in Gaza,

Mahalo nui,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 5:28:43 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt	Jewish Voice for Peace Hawai'i, LAING Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt, I am an artist and an organizer with Jewish Voice for Peace Hawai'i and LAING Hawai'i currently pursuing my doctoral studies in Hiroshima, Japan. I am both Filipino and Jewish with dual American & Israeli citizenship. I graduated from UH in 2020 with my Master in Fine Arts. I am writing in FULL support of SCR13 to put an **immediate** end to the genocide of innocent Palestinian civilians at the hands of the Israeli military and government.

There are plenty of people here today who can give you the facts, but I will speak from personal experience as a Jewish person of color who has been advocating for Palestine for many years.

My father was born in Haifa to German-Jewish parents. My great grandparents were murdered in Auschwitz. I grew up attending a Zionist school in Chicago, where we never learned about the Nakba, nor did anyone ever mention the word Palestine. It took me 20 years to unlearn Zionist narratives that made me believe that Jews need a highly militarized ethno-state to protect us from the "terrorists" who want to "push the Jews into the sea." I have family that lives in settlements and fought in the IDF. Because I'm an Israeli citizen, I could have also been drafted into military service if I had chosen to "make aliyah" and move to Israel.

But once I saw with my own eyes the suffering and oppression of the Palestinian people while visiting family in Israel - the border walls, the divided communities, the racism - I realized how our families' stories have been co-opted. The pain and suffering of the Jewish people is being used to justify the murder, maiming, imprisonment, torture, and displacement of the Palestinian people: children, women, elders, men, and all genders. I refuse to participate and so should you.

The war crimes being committed by Israel - recognized by the ICJ, the UN, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, B'tselem, and more - are NOT Jewish and they do NOT represent the interests of the Jewish people. I am one of hundreds of thousands of Jews both inside Israel and in diaspora who are vehemently opposed to any and all US support of this rogue pariah state.

Make no mistake: [this is a genocide!](#)

Make no mistake: [Palestine is a NUCLEAR ISSUE!](#)

Make no mistake: **Israel is an apartheid state, just as South Africa used to be!**

Make no mistake: **Critique of Israel is not antisemitic but ignoring the voices of Jews IS antisemitic!**

Our unique Hawaii community understands suffering from displacement, war, colonization, land theft, poisoned water, cultural erasure, ecocide, sexualized violence, militarization, nuclear contamination, etc. etc. etc. We are lucky to not have a border wall. We are lucky to not have armed soldiers and checkpoints. And we are lucky that our children do not lay bleeding to death in the street for throwing stones. We have compassion and relate to our Palestinian siblings because we, too, continue to suffer in our own communities from similar plights.

We know that our solidarity with each other across the world **WILL** win this struggle for liberation for the most oppressed people. We demand that our government representatives hear our voices - **especially the voices of Jews of color with family and community in Hawai'i** - to take this massive, historic, and long overdue step towards a true and lasting peace that will ensure **PEACE, JUSTICE, and LIBERATION** for the Palestinian people and **ALL** people in the region. No more money to Israel! No more weapons to Israel! No more collaboration with genocidal maniacs! We refuse!

**PERMANENT CEASEFIRE NOW!  
END ISRAELI OCCUPATION!  
END ISRAELI APARTHEID!  
FREE GAZA!  
FREE PALESTINE!**

Rebecca Maria Goldschmidt



## TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: CAI

APRIL 19, 2024

**SCR 13, URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports** SCR 13, which calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

According to the health ministry in Gaza, as of mid-March, at least 30,717 people have been killed in Israel's ongoing war against the Palestinians. Roughly 12,300 of those lost were children and 8,400 were women. Another 72,156 have been injured, of whom 8,663 are children and 6,327 are women. These numbers do not include figures from the occupied West Bank, where another 400 people have been killed and 4,600 injured.

The devastation in Gaza is impossible to overstate. More than half of Gaza's homes—360,000 residential units—have been destroyed or damaged. Another 392 educational facilities have been demolished; 12 out of 35 hospitals are only partially functioning; 132 ground water wells have been damaged or destroyed, and 267 places of worship have been ruined.

Every hour in Gaza since the incursion began, 15 people have been killed (including 6 children), 35 people have been injured, 42 bombs have



been dropped, and 12 buildings have been destroyed, Nearly 100 journalists have also been slain, some of whom appear to have been deliberately targeted by Israeli forces for reporting on the horror of the conflict. As 1.9 million Palestinians have been forced to flee their homes, many more lives are now at risk from hunger, disease, and low temperatures.

This situation is exacerbated by the U.S.'s defunding of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinians in the Near East, which has provided critical humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees since its inception in 1949. Much of the UNRWA's budget since the most recent conflict began has paid for flour for 350,000 families; 14 million food items, mattress pads, blankets, and kitchen sets; the distribution of 20 million liters of water; and life-saving medication.

Local, national, and international pressure on Israel to stop its military offensive is growing. **The months-long Israeli siege of the Gaza strip has created a dire humanitarian crisis that can only be addressed by the achievement of a permanent ceasefire.** We also note and condemn the continued U.S. military aid for Israel—President Biden recently requested another \$10 billion—that has come despite Israel's restriction of humanitarian assistance and repeated violations of international law.

Israel's assault on Gaza is the latest episode in a long legacy of colonial bloodshed that has left the Palestinian people struggling to defend their basic human rights and dignity. We cannot stand idly by while the world bears witness to a withering offensive that is intended to fortify the apartheid conditions that Israel has imposed on Gaza's citizens. **To prevent the further loss of innocent lives, we, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, stand with all those throughout the world who are demanding the establishment of a permanent ceasefire. Now.**

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:15:50 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Golding	The Episcopal Church in Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On February 29th, while waiting in line to receive food, more than 100 people were killed and more than 750 were wounded in Gaza. This is a further example of the sheer horror civilians are facing while trying to fulfill their most basic needs. As we pray for the dead and injured, we reiterate our call for a ceasefire. Humanitarian aid is essential to ensuring that lives are not lost to lack of food, water, medical supplies, fuel, and other basic necessities. These needs cannot be met with constant war. A ceasefire will allow for humanitarian aid to pass into Gaza without harm coming to those delivering or receiving it.



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

April 18, 2024

Committee On Culture, Arts, & International Affairs  
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Chair  
Rep. Rose Martinez, Vice Chair

### **Testimony in strong support of SCR13**

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents over 10,000 Hawaii workers in hotels, health care, airports and food service. Our union issued the statement below in November 2023 calling for an immediate ceasefire in order to protect the civilian populations of Gaza and the West Bank. In December, Local 5 members visited the offices of Hawaii's Congressional delegation to deliver the same message. Today, we continue to call for an immediate ceasefire, and we urge this Legislature to do the same. The working class never benefits from war. Please pass SCR13.

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UNITE HERE LOCAL 5, HAWAII'S HOTEL, FOOD SERVICE, AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS UNION, CALLS ON PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AND THE U.S. CONGRESS TO DEMAND AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK.

To date, thousands of innocent civilians including more than 4,500 children have been killed and many more are missing & have no access to essential necessities such as clean water, food, electricity, internet, and medical assistance. Preventing any further loss of life must be our priority.

As a union, we represent a diverse and multiethnic group of workers from Hawaii and believe in working towards a better world where fair treatment and exercising one's basic human rights is afforded to all. We condemn all forms of antisemitism and islamophobia, and demand that our elected leaders stop sending billions of our tax dollars overseas that ultimately flow to corporations and fund genocide. The working class never benefits from war.

In understanding our own histories with occupation and colonialism, we, the working people of Hawaii would "rather eat stones" than submit to our oppressors. We recognize the plight of Palestinians who continue to resist and struggle towards their own liberation.

Onipaa.

*\* The reference to "eating the stones" comes from a famous resistance song Mele Ai Pohaku, the "Stone Eating Song" or Mele Aloha Aina, the "Patriot's Song" during the overthrow period in the Hawaiian Kingdom era. When the Royal Hawaiian Band walked off their jobs, refusing to sign an oath to the Provisional Government, they were told they had better sign, or they would be eating rocks. Ellen Wright Pendergast composed the song's lyrics, and Jose Libornio who immigrated from the Philippines wrote the music and was a Hawaiian national hero.*

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:27:38 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alan B Burdick	Progressive Democrats of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Progressive Democrats of Hawaii is in STRONG SUPPORT of the ceasefire resolutions. Civilian deaths have exceeded 30,000. Injuries and amputations are tens of thousands more. Gaza has been reduced to rubble. How much more?

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:47:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannette Gurung	Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

On behalf of my organization, WOCAN, and with the greatest concern for women victims of this atrocity, I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:53:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha CAI Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez & Committee Members [Garrett](#), [Kapela](#), [Matayoshi](#), [Sayama](#), [Alcos](#),

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members statewide, we stand in strong support of SCR13, urging the president of the united states and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation to support an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Every country has a Right to defend itself, but the unjustified extreme violence perpetrated by Netanyahu's government is not self-defense, it is the legal definition of genocide. This horrible violence has continued, and can only continue with US support and weapons. Thus we have a moral responsibility and ethical Right to demand an immediate ceasefire and an end to this unnecessary violence that has murdered thousands of innocent civilians, half of which are children, that have been murdered by US weapons provided by our president.

You and our congressional delegation were elected to represent the will of your constituents, and the polls are clear that the vast majority of US citizens and the People of Hawaii want an immediate ceasefire.

In the name of Justice and basic decency, vote in support and pass SCR13. It is the Right thing to do.

Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder

Our Revolution Hawaii



TO: House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs  
Rep. Adrian Tam, Chair  
Rep. Rose Martinez, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, April 19, 2024

FROM: AF3IRM Hawai'i

RE: SCR 13 Permanent Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the Committee on on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 13**. AF3IRM underscores how patriarchy is at the core of what enables violent oppressive systems and asks everyone to commit to instead build systems of justice and care.

The ongoing genocide in Palestine is a product of the aforementioned violences. Because of this, Palestine is and will always be a feminist issue. Our Palestinian relatives are enduring horrors orchestrated by the violent, colonizing forces of "Israel". We also know that Israel would not be able to do this without the unrelenting support of the United States.

We say LAND BACK BODIES BACK, FREE PALESTINE. AF3IRM supports the demand for a permanent ceasefire. We call to end the siege and for the permanent end of Israel's occupation of Palestine. We affirm the Palestinian resistance against their oppressors and affirm the right of Palestinians to return home to live in their ancestral lands. The last day of Israeli occupation will be the first day of true and lasting peace.

**As women from colonized lands, we know that military occupation creates and enables violence against women and gender expansive people. The Imperial War Machine uses propaganda to appeal to women's rights & queer rights to propagate harmful agendas. But we know there is no women's liberation and queer liberation in Zionism and genocide.**

**The facts to the contrary are damning:**

1. Israel claims to stand for gender equality for women, claiming Israeli women soldiers indicates women's empowerment, all while women and children – including the Occupation's own female soldiers - experience misogynistic and sexual abuse at the hands of the Occupation's soldiers. Palestinian women share firsthand accounts of rape, sexual violence, sex trafficking, physical abuse, and torture, dating back to the original Nakba of 1948.





2. Israel has been a safe haven for pedophiles and sexual predators, sheltering about 100 rabbis, teachers, and other figures who have been accused, charged, or convicted of sexual abuse of minors overseas.

**And 3.** The most recent siege on Gaza has increased infant mortality and produced a more than 300% increase in miscarriages among Palestinian women.

The U.S. military also perpetuates this violence. Where there are military bases, there is domestic violence and rape. Where the US military goes, brothels and prostitution follow. The demand for sex is connected to the entitlement to land and bodies, where women and queer people are coerced into paid rape in the sex trade.

It is women who bear the brunt of the violent consequences that come with the dispossession of land from indigenous people. As transnational feminists, we must be attentive to intersections among nationhood, race, gender, sexuality, and economic exploitation on a world scale in the context of imperialist globalization. The same tools of imperialism, white supremacy, and patriarchy are the root cause of the ongoing crisis of missing murdered indigenous women and girls. It is the root cause of the dispossession of Native peoples.

The occupation of Hawai'i and Palestine are both settler-colonial projects backed by US imperialism. Former Hawai'i senator and known sexual abuser Daniel K. Inouye is infamous for advocating for millions in tax monies to go to Israel. Like the U.S.'s colonial project in Hawai'i and other occupied lands, Israel is exploiting lands, poisoning waters, desecrating sacred places, and erasing the Palestinian people. Israel has also emboldened settlers to attack Palestinians and enact their false entitlement to take Palestinian homes. The U.S. has been complicit by funding and providing weapons to the Israeli Occupation Forces even when American citizens have demonstrated their dissent to the death and destruction of Israel's crimes against humanity. Many of these weapons have been developed and tested right here in Hawai'i! Hewa!

Before the colonization of both places the Hawaiian Kingdom and Palestine had diplomatic and personal relationships with one another! In many ways, we still do. AF3IRM is committed to fighting for a deoccupied Hawai'i and Palestine, for we know our struggles are inseparable. Palestine is showing the world what can be. The Palestinian resistance teaches us life and how justice for Palestine is connected to the liberation of all colonized lands and peoples everywhere, especially in Hawai'i.

Until the last aloha 'āina, until the last olive tree, we as a people will remain steadfast in the love for our homelands and each other. From the river to the sea, from Kō Hawai'i Pae 'Āina to Palestine, every empire will fall at the knees of the mothers who have birthed this revolution.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:57:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Warech	Jewish Voice for Peace-Hawai'i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To Chair Tam, Vice-chair Martinez, and esteemed members of the CAI Committee,

We are the Hawai'i chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, the largest progressive anti-zionist Jewish organization in the world. Our chapter is a grassroots, multiracial, cross-class, intergenerational movement of Jews in solidarity with the Palestinian freedom struggle, and the struggle for a free Hawai'i. Like generations of Jews before us, we fight for the liberation of all peoples and lands. Our membership includes Jews and allies, and we strive to serve the Hawai'i community as a safe space for anti-zionist thinking that absolutely and unequivocally rejects all forms of antisemitism and rejects the idea that anti-zionism and antisemitism are the same.

Our membership includes people whose relatives were murdered in the Holocaust and who fled persecution in pogroms around the globe, and so we as Jewish people are committed to speaking out against all genocide everywhere. What is happening now in Gaza is a genocide. When you look at the ten stages that are widely accepted to constitute genocide you see them all being enacted in Gaza now. What we are asking for is the **bare minimum: a permanent immediate ceasefire**. We want the atrocities to end. America supplies Israel with the weapons it needs to keep fueling its crimes, and it is for that reason that American representatives must listen to their constituents' pleas, stand up, and say no more.

As your Jewish constituents we are begging you to affirm what we know: genocide cannot be allowed to go unchecked by the international community. For all of our sakes we must reaffirm the value of all human life. We must call for ceasefire.

We hope that you heard our voices on Wednesday when we sang to you from the rotunda. We stand together, we pray together, and we call for a ceasefire together. We call for justice for the over 14,000 children killed together. Please join us. The time for peace is now.

**Just a month ago, researchers projected that even with an immediate permanent ceasefire then, 6,500 more lives likely would be lost in the time it would take to get aid and services to Gaza due to the dire current conditions. These numbers have now grown as starvation has continued to set in with over 25 children dying of starvation. The same researchers project 74,000 people could be massacred over the next six months if Israel continues to**

**escalate. Children as young as 5 are saying they would prefer to die and at least 17,000 children in Gaza are unaccompanied. UN rights experts have stated that Israel is deliberately starving Palestinians, and international bodies have made it abundantly clear Israel is committing genocide.**

Every single day our country fails to demand a permanent immediate ceasefire, more blood is on all of our hands. This resolution is far from symbolic, it is Hawai'i taking a stance on behalf of the overwhelming majority of constituents who want a ceasefire and making it clear to the world that we say no to genocide and that our congressional delegation must start listening to the will of the people.

One of the greatest horrors of the holocaust is that the world sat by and watched as it happened. The trauma of the holocaust was then weaponized into 75 years of trauma for Palestinians through Zionism. The U.S.'s unwavering support of Israel has culminated in this horrifying moment where another systematic extermination of a peoples is taking place as we speak. It is morally unjustifiable to allow this to continue and today the power to take a significant step toward stopping it lies in your hands.

We are calling on you as our elected officials to heed our calls, to heed the majority of your constituents who support a ceasefire. The people have been speaking for almost 200 days through phone calls, letter writing, press conferences, rallies, marches and ceasefire resolutions being passed by city councils and the democratic party of Hawai'i.

It is completely unacceptable that every single one of our federal congress people have not called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, blatantly ignoring the will of their constituents. Today, we ask you to rectify this, to codify the overwhelming support for a permanent ceasefire through this resolution.

We are asking you to look long and hard in the mirror and in this time of moral reckoning, choose your humanity over the political fearmongering meant to keep unprecedented amounts of power in Israel's hands. Gaza and its people are being destroyed due to the cowardice of so many elected officials to act. Due to getting campaign money from AIPAC. Due to decades of lobbying to make Israel a bipartisan untouchable issue at the expense of Palestinians lives, livelihoods, futures, dreams.

We are calling on you to honor the over 34,000 human beings who have been murdered, to honor the over 14,000 children who have been killed by Israeli airstrikes, ground operations and starvation, and to honor the entire lines of families who have been physically wiped out by voting yes today. As Jews, we invite you to stand with us in the Jewish values of shalom and tikkun olam, to fight for a just world by repairing it, to be in right relationship by holding all life as inherently sacred. **WE BELIEVE IN YOU TO DO THE RIGHT THING.** Thank you.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:01:45 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alakai Kapanui	Kona 4 Palestine	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

We are testifying in absolute support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. You must fulfill your kuleana to your constituents who are responsible for electing you and raise your voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the genocide by Israel, towards the Palestinian people and their resistance of colonization and occupation, has taken a devastating toll on innocent civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some +38,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed JUST since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another +70,000 have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements that require immediate and long term medical treatment which Israel also denies.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive - this tactic has been ongoing since the building of the apartheid wall. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if Israel is not held accountable immediately.

An immediate ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by Israel and all other parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water food, and medical supplies into Gaza to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Israel (the settler coloney has illegally detained some 10,000 Palestinians for indefinite sentence lengths) and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by Israel in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war as Iraq recently fired warning shots over the iron dome. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end.

Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:09:56 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pete Doktor	Veterans for Peace, Hawai`i Ch. 113	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an organization of US military veterans and veteran supporters, we strongly support SCR13 resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire.

What is being in the name of “defense” by the Netanyahu extremist regime is criminal, cowardice and is only making bad worse by sowing the seeds of another generation of wars. As former military service members, we understand a professional military is one that abides by international covenants on pono conduct by soldiers, such as the Geneva Convention and international law which the IDF has shown no respect for. Moreover, the wholesale slaughter of non-combatants dishonors genuine and reasonable self-defense.

As a former Army medic of Ashkenazi descendant of Holocaust victims, I am grief-stricken by the moral and global crisis in Israel and Palestine, and appalled by the various ongoing crimes against humanity that has displaced millions and disproportionately starved, injured and killed many tens of thousands of civilians, including innocent children, aid workers and journalists.

Veterans for Peace advocates peace through peaceful means and an end to the violence, including an immediate and permanent cessation of all acts of militarism and terror, and release of all hostages and political prisoners.

Veterans for Peace Hawai`i encourages elected representatives to represent societal concerns and values as a multicultural democracy by abiding by international law and cease arming, funding and enabling the Israeli military offensive immediately, and shifting resources towards expediting unrestricted global-scale humanitarian aid and restoration. We would rather our tax monies be utilized for social uplift and investment rather than lethal wars that create more regional instability rather than genuine human security.

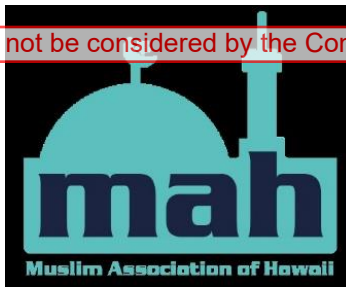
Our ka pae `āina needs to represent our voices and values, and challenge the Federal government to stop enabling and arming this genocide against the will of the people, and to “e mālama pono.”

Mahalo for your public service and kuleana.

Pete Doktor

Co-founder Ch. 113 Hawai`i, Veterans for Peace

Moanalua



Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi, Chairman of the Board**  
**The Muslim Association of Hawaii**  
1935 Aleo Place, Honolulu, HI 96822

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**Friday, April 18, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Room 430, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**SCR 13 SD1 (SSCR 3168): URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT  
AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA.**

Honorable Chair Tam, Honorable Vice Chair Martinez, and esteemed members of the Committee On Culture, Arts, & International Affairs, I extend my gratitude for the opportunity to offer testimony on SCR 13 SD1 (SSCR3168) concerning the ceasefire in Gaza.

The Muslim Association of Hawaii (MAH), proudly representing over 4500 members across our state, fervently backs SCR 13 SD1, urging our congressional delegation to advocate for a ceasefire in Gaza. Acknowledging the intricacies of the legislative process and out of respect to your time, we have encouraged our members to refrain from submitting individual testimonies, opting instead to consolidate their concerns and sentiments into this collective testimony.

We firmly believe that advocating for a permanent ceasefire and the safe return of all hostages is not only morally imperative but also a fundamental duty inherent in our shared humanity. By endorsing such action, we affirm the inherent value of every life, regardless of nationality or ethnicity. It is our earnest desire to convey that we, as a community in Hawaii, reject any dehumanizing rhetoric that seeks to diminish the worth of Palestinian lives. Such language, often perpetuated by the extremist Israeli government, serves to justify unspeakable atrocities and human rights violations in Palestine, including the ongoing cycle of violence, unlawful detentions, and systemic oppression.

While we acknowledge the longstanding plight of the Palestinian people, particularly those residing in Gaza, under a brutal occupation characterized by violence, persecution, and deprivation, it is crucial to emphasize that our support for SCR 13 SD1 is rooted in humanitarian principles. This resolution serves as a plea to halt the needless loss of life and alleviate the suffering of innocent civilians, as corroborated by reputable international organizations such as Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children, and others.

As we testify today, albeit with a heavy heart, the profound and devastating humanitarian crisis persists in Gaza and other parts of Palestine especially affecting the innocent children, women and elderly, reminiscent of the atrocities witnessed during the Nazi Holocaust of 1941. The International Court of Justice's recent ruling on January 26, 2024, with 15 out of 17 judges concurring, underscores the gravity of the situation, acknowledging the plausibility of genocide. Children in Gaza endure unimaginable suffering,



their lives marred by the destruction wrought by American bombs and Israeli policies. They languish amidst the ruins of their homes, orphaned, traumatized, and deprived of basic necessities like access to food, water and medical care. These harrowing accounts are not merely our own; they echo the findings of reputable international bodies such as the United Nations and NGOs.

Under the leadership of the Netanyahu regime and staunch Zionist factions, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have unleashed a campaign of collective punishment, genocide, and ethnic cleansing upon Palestinian lands. The appalling conditions in Gaza reflect a deliberate agenda, as Netanyahu and the IDF openly invoke biblical references like the Amalek mandate, advocating for the total destruction of Palestinian communities. The indiscriminate violence perpetrated by settlers and the IDF spares no one, claiming the lives of innocent men, women, children, and infants, while systematically obliterating homes, hospitals, schools, and places of worship.

The statistics are staggering and heartbreaking: since October 7th, over 14,500 children out of Gaza's 1.1 million have perished, while thousands more are feared dead or buried under rubble, their deaths unacknowledged. Essential aid, upon which families depend for survival, has been sporadically delivered or outright denied by Israeli authorities. Meanwhile, vital services have been decimated by relentless airstrikes and ongoing hostilities.

For parents who are still alive, the struggle to keep their children alive amidst this chaos is agonizing. They are acutely aware that even if their children survive the bombings and starvation, their future prospects hang in the balance. According to Save the Children International, the Education Cannot Wait and the Norwegian Refugee Council, "all schools in Gaza have been shuttered for the past six months, depriving 625,000 students of education. Shockingly, over 5,479 students and 261 teachers have lost their lives since October. The devastation is palpable: 87.7% of school buildings have been damaged or destroyed, with over 500,000 children and 18,900 teachers affected. Every university in Gaza lies in ruins. Satellite images vividly capture the scale of the bombardment, violating international humanitarian law that mandates schools' protection from direct attacks. The ongoing conflict erodes the very essence of childhood, robbing children of stability, safety, and play." They continued "Education is not just a right; it is a lifeline for children in crisis. It offers them a semblance of normalcy, a refuge from the horrors of war, and a pathway to a brighter future. Yet, in Gaza, even this sanctuary is under threat. Establishing safe spaces for children and scaling up education in emergencies is imperative yet hindered by the pervasive insecurity".

Hope dwindles with each passing day of conflict. We must act decisively to preserve the hopes and dreams of Gaza's children. Their future, and indeed humanity's conscience, depends on our collective action. Although this resolution does not aim to resolve the longstanding and deeply entrenched issues surrounding the decades-old occupation, advocating for a permanent ceasefire is not merely a moral imperative but a basic humanitarian duty that resonates with anyone possessing empathy. By calling for an end to hostilities, we affirm the equal worth of every human life, regardless of nationality or ethnicity. Such action sends a resounding message: the lives of Palestinian children are just as precious as those of Israeli children. It underscores our rejection of the dehumanizing rhetoric propagated by Netanyahu's far-right government, which seeks to portray Palestinians as less than human in order to justify the ongoing starvation, massacres, arrests, kidnappings, torture and war crimes that are happening in every part of Palestine, including the West Bank that has no Hamas.

In conclusion, we implore for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the siege on Gaza. The Government of Israel must cease unlawful attacks on civilians, and the Gazans civilians and children must be allowed to have access to food and medicine. We as the international community must condemn attacks on children, doctors, hospitals, churches, mosques and schools unequivocally and demand accountability for violations of international law. We respectfully urge your esteemed committee to consider SCR 13 SD1 with utmost compassion and urgency, recognizing its potential to contribute towards peace and justice in the region. Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:02:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Miller	The Jewish Sisterhood of Kaua'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha members of the committee,**

**Please amend resolution SCR13. In its current form, this resolution grossly distorts the truth and omits fundamental facts about the conflict between the democratic country of Israel and the jihadist terror organization Hamas.**

**Resolution SCR 13 does not mention the following crucial pieces of information regarding the war:**

- **Hamas is a terrorist organization according to the US Department of State. Israel is a democratic country and a strategic regional ally of the United States.**
- **Hamas must return the living hostages and the bodies of murdered hostages who were kidnapped on October 7th by Hamas terrorists and continue to be held captive today.**
- **Israel has a right to exist and to defend itself against terrorism.**
- **On October 7th, Hamas terrorists broke a ceasefire by invading Israel and committing unspeakable atrocities against Israeli civilians.**
- **Hamas uses Gazan civilians as human shields.**
- **Hamas launches a barrage of rockets into Israel on a daily basis.**

**SCR 13 equates Israel and Hamas as equal players, which is misinformed, misleading, and dangerous. Israel is a democratic country, a strategic ally, and a key regional partner in the Middle East. Hamas is a Jihadist terrorist group akin to ISIS.**

**SCR 13 fails to recognize that Hamas is solely responsible for this conflict. Hawai'i's political pressure should be on Hamas to do the following:**

- 1) Surrender;**
- 2) Release all living hostages and bodies of deceased hostages;**
- 3) Stop firing rockets at Israel.**

**Thank you for your consideration,**

**The Jewish Sisterhood of Kaua'i**

I am writing in strong support of SCR 13 - which urges the congressional delegation from Hawai'i to support an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. It is beyond time to end the suffering of the Palestinian and Israeli people as conditions have only worsened in the 6 weeks since this resolution was heard in the Senate.

In that short period, we have seen Israel admit to intentionally targeting young men when they are sleeping in their homes with their families and then killing all of them<sup>1</sup>, the targeting of humanitarian workers as they moved from car to car 3 times and were repeatedly assaulted by air strikes ending in the death of 7 including US, British, and Australian citizens.<sup>2</sup> And finally President Joe Biden and countless other federal officials have called for an immediate and lasting ceasefire.<sup>3</sup>

The United States is the only country that has the power to stop the bombing - we supply the weapons that are used to kill thousands of innocent women and children. It is a genocide, and the United States is complicit. What role will you play in ending the brutality?

What kind of message are we sending the rest of the world when we allow Israel to ignore the humanitarian crisis they have created? We are losing our standing as a country that conducts its actions with morals because we have refused to condition our support of aid to Israel. How long will the U.S. continue to allow Israel to disobey long-standing international norms when it comes to the protection of civilians? Is there no red line for Israel?

Please pass this resolution which will show that the Hawai'i State Legislature has a moral compass and is not afraid to defend the rights of civilians in times of war. Hawai'i has a long tradition of making stances against injustice including its own illegal overthrow by the American government, and more recently successfully suing the Trump Administration over its racist and Islamophobic policy against people from Muslim countries.<sup>4</sup>

“How can you have a war on terrorism when war itself is terrorism?” — Howard Zinn

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<sup>1</sup> [“‘Lavender’: The AI machine directing Israel’s bombing spree in Gaza - The Israeli army has marked tens of thousands of Gazans as suspects for assassination, using an AI targeting system with little human oversight and a permissive policy for casualties.](#) (April 3, 2024)

<sup>2</sup> [Father of killed World Central Kitchen worker tells Blinken US should suspend aid to Israel](#) (April 8, 2024)  
[Joe Biden calls for ‘immediate ceasefire’ in Gaza and says Israel must protect civilians to keep US support](#) (April 4, 2024)

<sup>4</sup> [Hawaii becomes 1st state to sue over Trump’s new travel ban](#) (March 9, 2017)

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:26:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emily Kandagawa	Ka Lei Maile Alii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in absolute support of [SCR13]. Hawaii MUST signal to the US federal government — and to the world — our commitment to aloha through principled action and the keen awareness that we cannot continue sending millions of Hawai'i taxpayer dollars to fund apartheid and genocide while Lahaina families remain houseless and neglected.

Collective punishment is a war crime under the Geneva Conventions, and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has already established there is a plausible genocide being committed by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza, with at least 35,000 civilians killed since October. Tens of thousands more have been wounded, brutally maimed, and/or orphaned. It is the moral, legal, and political responsibility of ALL lawmakers to put an end to these violation of international law — supported primarily by billions of US taxpayer dollars — by calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in order to create the conditions necessary for the State of Israel to comply with the ICJ's ruling to prevent further war crimes and to provide unimpeded humanitarian aid to civilians.

There is no military solution that will end this violence; only good faith diplomatic effort will accomplish the release of the remaining Israeli hostages and a true pathway to genuine peace and justice. The root cause of the attacks of Oct. 7 must be addressed in order to prevent more death and destruction. The nearly 2 decade-long illegal siege, bombings, and blockage of Gaza must end, the occupation must end, and the dehumanizing violence of Israeli apartheid must end. The time is now to join the millions rising around the world for humanity and for justice. VOTE YES.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:42:39 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Board of Directors	The Jewish Community of Kaua'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha members of the committee,**

**We are the Board of Directors of The Jewish Community of Kaua'i, the island's only Reform Jewish congregation.**

**Please amend resolution SCR13. In its current form, this resolution grossly distorts the truth and omits fundamental facts about the conflict between the democratic country of Israel and the jihadist terror organization Hamas.**

**Resolution SCR 13 does not mention the following crucial pieces of information regarding the war:**

- Hamas is a terrorist organization according to the US Department of State. Israel is a democratic country and a strategic regional ally of the United States.**
- Hamas must return the living hostages and the bodies of murdered hostages who were kidnapped on October 7th by Hamas terrorists and continue to be held captive today.**
- Israel has a right to exist and to defend itself against terrorism.**
- On October 7th, Hamas terrorists broke a ceasefire by invading Israel and committing unspeakable atrocities against Israeli civilians.**
- Hamas uses Gazan civilians as human shields.**
- Hamas launches a barrage of rockets into Israel on a daily basis.**

**SCR 13 equates Israel and Hamas as equal players, which is misinformed, misleading, and dangerous. Israel is a democratic country, a strategic ally, and a key regional partner in the Middle East. Hamas is a Jihadist terrorist group akin to ISIS.**

**SCR 13 fails to recognize that Hamas is solely responsible for this conflict. Hawai'i's political pressure should be on Hamas to do the following:**

- 1) Surrender;**
- 2) Release all living hostages and bodies of deceased hostages;**
- 3) Stop firing rockets at Israel.**

**Thank you for your consideration,**

**The Jewish Community of Kaua'i**

# JCRB

The Jewish Community  
Relations Board of Hawaii  
HawaiiJCRB@gmail.com

Nicky Watts  
Chair

## In Opposition to SCR13

### URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

April 18, 2024

Dear Honorable Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing this testimony in **strong opposition** to the wording in SCR13 for it being one sided, misleading, unrealistic, and resulting in antisemitism in Hawaii towards the local Jewish populations.

As the Chair of the Jewish Community Relations Board (JCRB) in Hawaii, I represent many Jewish people across the state who have different viewpoints about Israel and about being Jewish. I'm not here to argue a viewpoint on Israel or Judaism.

Here in Hawaii, we have had a 600% rise in antisemitic acts since October 7th. I am often notified as the JCRB Chair. The incidents have happened so often, our group is having to create systems with the police and government on how to handle them. Clusters of incidents have happened at once and it's been hard to be effective with handling it. Our community wants to feel safe at home in Hawaii, and it's the same in Israel.

Prior to October 7th, Jews in Hawaii felt safe. Jewish Voices for Peace and other Anti-Israel or Anti-Zionists groups would hold events at the university, many of which taught flawed or untrue narratives of Israel's history and a definition of Zionism that failed to share the rich diversity within Zionism - It is a Zionist view to have a two state solution with an autonomous Palestine as our thriving neighbor, void of settlements. Pre-October 7th there was an occasional incident in Hawaii, but none of it warranted the need to build a robust system to process it. Jews in Hawaii now live in fear wondering what the next escalation will be and whether the police and government will protect us. Part of my role as JCRB Chair has been to work with Governor Green's office. They have been attentive and helpful, putting me in touch with people I needed to be in contact with, and taking the situations.



The rise in antisemitism in Hawaii is important in terms of Resolution SCR13 because the movement behind the resolution has provoked antisemitism as a way to push their agenda. This isn't Hawaii's agenda, this is an agenda that has been carefully constructed over many many years by organizations whose sole mission is to eradicate Israel.

In worldwide populations, for every Jewish person there are 120 Muslims and 150 Christians. Most Arabs are Muslim. There are 49 countries that are predominantly Muslim and 157 countries that are Christian. There are 4 countries that are Buddhist and 520 million Buddhists. There are 15.7 million Jews. On a macro level, Jews are always going to be outnumbered. There's one Jewish country and it's Israel. Israel is outnumbered and always has been.

The war in Gaza is part of a religious war between distant cousins that has been going on a long time. That's what allows it to poison communities worldwide. That doesn't justify the deaths of innocent people on either side. It's horrible. The situation is horrible, but having a one-sided Resolution from Hawaii isn't going to convince anyone in Israel to do anything, but it will empower people in Hawaii to get bolder with their antisemitism here in Hawaii.

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members; I humbly ask you to either defer Reso SCR13 or alter it enough so that it seeks peace in a way that is feasible and balanced.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:27:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michoel Goldman	Kauai Jewish Center / Kauai Jewry	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

Please amend resolution SCR13. In its current form, this resolution grossly distorts the truth and omits fundamental facts about the conflict between the democratic country of Israel and the jihadist terror organization Hamas.

Resolution SCR 13 does not mention the following crucial pieces of information regarding the war:

- Hamas is a terrorist organization according to the US Department of State. Israel is a democratic country and a strategic regional ally of the United States.
- Hamas must return the living hostages and the bodies of murdered hostages who were kidnapped on October 7th by Hamas terrorists and continue to be held captive today.
- Israel has a right to exist and to defend itself against terrorism.
- On October 7th, Hamas terrorists broke a ceasefire by invading Israel and committing unspeakable atrocities against Israeli civilians.
- Hamas uses Gazan civilians as human shields.
- Hamas launches a barrage of rockets into Israel on a daily basis.
- Hamas itself has rejected multiple offers for a ceasefire and that's not really what it wants because a permanent ceasefire is against its own mandate to wipe Israel off the map!
- The calls for a Ceasefire are pure propaganda aiming to make Israel look like an aggressor, when in fact Hamas has broken every ceasefire deal over the last 20+ years (!) and it's intent is to buy time for Hamas to re-arm.

SCR 13 equates Israel and Hamas as equal players, which is misinformed, misleading, and dangerous. Israel is a democratic country, a strategic ally, and a key regional partner in the Middle East. Hamas is a Jihadist terrorist group akin to ISIS.

SCR 13 fails to recognize that Hamas is solely responsible for this conflict. Hawai'i's political pressure should be on Hamas to do the following:

- 1) Surrender;
- 2) Release all living hostages and bodies of deceased hostages;

3) Stop firing rockets at Israel.

Thank you for your consideration,

Our hope is that Hawaii's legislature doesn't fall prey to this propaganda machine and psychological warfare which has nothing to do with the reality on the ground.

If Hamas surrendered today the war would be over tomorrow.

Rabbi Michael Goldman

On behalf of Kauai Jewish People



The Jewish Community  
Relations Board of Hawaii

**In Opposition to**

**SCR13**

**URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S  
CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT  
CEASEFIRE IN GAZA**

**House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs**

Dear Honorable Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, Members of the Committee,

I offer comments in strong **opposition** to SCR13 as a private citizen outside of my role in the capitol and am submitting this testimony in my capacity as the Vice Chair and Co-Chair of Events of the Jewish Community Relations Board.

My opposition to this piece of legislation does not speak to the many possible intents of this bill, but to the specific language that does not acknowledge the responsibility of the Foreign Terrorist Organization who broke the ceasefire on October 7, 2023, and to the effect this resolution will have on the Jews in Hawaii and the vulnerable community members of your districts.

I am heartbroken by the war in Gaza and Israel. I am deeply moved by the images and stories of those who lost their homes and communities in Gaza. I cry for the children who were kidnapped by Hamas, and for their parents and families who pray for them to be returned safely. I support a ceasefire and a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinian people, but one that holds Israel to a higher standard than other countries, and one that does not call for Hamas to surrender power or be removed, will only continue the cycle of violence that Hamas began when they were democratically elected in 2007 and culminating on October 7, and harm the Jewish people.

I was born and raised on Oahu, and have personally experienced harassment and antisemitism, and have observed antisemitism against my friends and family in Hawaii. But this increased tenfold after October 7, when protests erupted celebrating Hamas attacks before Israel had even responded. A Jew was physically assaulted because he spoke out in support of the hostages. Families had to drive home and see swastikas and hate speech painted on public property. I was harassed and called a baby killer and a dirty Jew. This antisemitism came from some of the people who are asking you to support SCR13 unamended.

The language of this resolution will empower those who have harassed the Jewish community leading to a 600% rise in antisemitic incidents and those who have assaulted Jews for speaking about the hostages that Hamas brutally ripped away from their families. As it is written, this resolution will give legitimacy to those who have vandalized streets in your districts with antisemitic graffiti and swastikas. And passing this resolution may stop your offices from being harassed, but it won't stop the never ending assaults on Jews in Hawaii from those who call for a ceasefire, only to chant the **genocidal** phrase "from the river to the sea" which was heard at the Capitol rotunda yesterday.

**The Jewish Community Relations Board respectfully urges the esteemed members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs to either defer this measure or amend it so that it does not give legitimacy to those who have harassed and attacked the Jewish community in your districts and in Hawaii since October.**

Thank you for considering my testimony,



Manya Tam  
Vice Chair and Co-Chair of Events  
Jewish Community Relations Board



April 3, 2024  
 Kapahulu Ave and Castle Street, House District 20  
 This is just one of many instances of hate speech and vandalism that I've witnessed in my neighborhood since October. Children and families are subjected to this hate as they drive to work and school.



December 9, 2023  
 Kapahulu Ave, House District 23  
 This is just one of many instances of hate speech and vandalism that occurred during Hanukkah.



October 22, 2023  
 Ala Moana Blvd and Atkinson Drive, House District 25  
 This is just one of many instances where Jews are subjected to blood libel that I've witnessed in Hawaii since October. The sign holder was with a group of people that called for resistance by any means necessary and stated that the October 7 Hamas massacre was justified, and shouted "from the river to the sea." This group of people called me a baby killer.



April 18, 2024  
 Kapiolani Blvd and Atkinson Drive House District 24  
 Photograph by Daphne Desser  
 This is just one of many instances where Jews are subjected to blood libel that I've witnessed in Hawaii since October. Children and families are subjected to this hate as they drive to work and school.

## **Suggested Amendments to SCR13 SD1**

### Page 1, Lines 5-7

Amend to accurately state the The International Court of Justice did not make a finding about genocide or call for a ceasefire in its ruling on South Africa v. Israel and that the ruling called for the unconditional, immediate release of all hostages being held by Hamas.

### Page 1, Lines 9-13

Amend to include that statistics on the Palestine lives lost due to the war are reported by the Hamas-controlled Health Ministry.

### Page 1, Lines 9-13

Amend to include the more than 240 hostages taken by Hamas and that the armed violence began with Hamas breaking the ceasefire and massacring and committing sexual violence against civilians on October 7

### Page 1, Lines 15-17

Amend to include that lives are at imminent risk in Gaza and Israel while the Hamas is in power

### Page 1, Lines 19-25

Amend to accurately state that Hamas has a documented history of hiding under and within civilian infrastructure including schools and hoisting, using civilians as shields, hiding senior leaders in other countries, abducting children, recruiting children for terror, and stealing aid

### Page 1, Lines 19-25

Amend to remove any inaccurate suggestion that Israel has recruited or abducted children

### Page 1, Lines 27-30

Amend to include that imminent threats to health of Gazans are also due to Hamas stealing humanitarian aid

### Page 2, Lines 1-3

Replace with accurate language to state that blockades from Israel to Palestinian areas, the result of ongoing violence in the name of Hamas, have negatively impacted those Palestinian people who do not believe in violent tactics or support Hamas

Page 2, Lines 13-15

Amend to include publicly calling for the hostages to be released and for Hamas surrender power or to be removed from power



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:20:50 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose, unless Hamas has released all living hostages or their dead bodies, and unless Hamas soldiers and political leaders have surrendered to the international court of justice.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:31:03 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alzira Fernandes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:31:17 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly urge the committee to pass this resolution. Over the past 6+ months we have witnessed the mass murder of over 35,000 people. The United States currently stands complicit in aiding to perpetuate a genocide as we have provided billions in dollars in weapons to Israel. I do not support my tax payer dollars fund this genocide. Hawaii has a chance now to send a message to the rest of the country that we do not stand for this, and given Hawaii's history and it's similarity to Palestine's history, it only seems right and appropriate that we be the first to take this significant step. Since this genocide began, I have seen the most atrocious things I have ever seen in my life - beheaded children, whol families bombed and/or burned to death, amputations without anesthesia, bodies tramped by tanks. These atrocities must stop and we must take action NOW to prevent this from continuing.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:38:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Alice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kristen Alice and I am writing in strong support of this resolution.

*“In Gaza and Israel, side with the child over the gun... side with the child over the gun every single time, no matter whose gun and no matter whose child.”*

-Naomi Klein, The Guardian, Oct. 11, 2023

Please support SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended.

Mahalo,

Kristen Alice

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:39:46 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:58:17 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jana Uyeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SCR13.

I am demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire, adding my voice to the millions saying enough is ENOUGH! Cease and desist these senseless killings and atrocities being committed not just by IDF but all those powers that grant them financial and military support.

**STOP THIS NOW**

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:05:22 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seb Choe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes



committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:16:03 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel’s system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

I have visited multiple genocide memorials in DC, Europe, and Rwanda. The wisdom of a ceasefire and standing against genocide is always so obvious in hindsight, but you have an opportunity and a responsibility to act in this moment to stand on the right side of history and protect human life.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Stacey Alapai

Makawao, 96768

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Hawai`i Legislature,

I am writing in strong support for SCR13/SR6. The situation in Gaza is dire and demands immediate action. We can not look away from the atrocities happening using our tax payer dollars and do nothing.

The humanitarian disaster unfolding in Gaza is a stain on humanity. Tens of thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians have lost their lives at the hands of the Israeli military, with another 2 million teetering on the brink of death due to bombs, starvation, and disease. The International Court of Justice has rightly labeled these actions as likely constituting genocide.

A ceasefire is not merely a desirable outcome; it is an urgent necessity to prevent further civilian casualties. It is imperative that the United States federal government withdraw its support for Israel's military campaign, its blockade of Gaza, and its apartheid policies. Hawai'i, as a state committed to justice and human rights, must play its part by passing a ceasefire resolution through the legislature.

The recent escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas, coupled with other armed groups, has resulted in an unprecedented level of civilian casualties. The toll is staggering – some 40,000 civilians, predominantly women and children, have perished, with another 70,000 wounded and thousands missing. Such atrocities flagrantly violate international law and human decency.

The United Nations has rightfully condemned these actions as genocide and has called for immediate cessation. As representatives of the people of Hawai'i, it is incumbent upon you to take a stand against this genocide. We must do everything within our power to halt the senseless loss of innocent lives and bring about peace and justice in Gaza.

I implore you to stand on the side of humanity and support SCR13/SR6. Let us send a strong message of solidarity with the people of Gaza and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to peace, justice, and the protection of human rights.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Jessica dos Santos

Kahuku Resident, Mother, Educator and Concerned Citizen Whom Does NOT Consent to My  
Tax Dollars Being Used for Genocide

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:27:27 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelli Cadavona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Biden's inaction on this matter makes me re think my lifelong support of the Democratic Party. Come November, I will certainly be thinking about the months of horrific violence Palestinians have endured at the hands of the Biden Administration's complicity and indifference.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:34:07 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shereen Hamed	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

**As an indigenous Palestinian-American with family still in Palestine, this issue is very important to me.**

**I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended.** This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.



This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:35:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

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Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

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This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Thank you. This is important and needs to be passed.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:50:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Abby Simmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the esteemed committee,

As a member of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, I support SCR13, as it is identical to the resolution the SCC unanimously adopted on December 2, 2023, calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and negotiations toward a lasting peace. Please pass it as is, without amendments.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:56:56 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely, what kind of person doesn't support a ceasefire by Israel in Gaza? Hawaii's Congressional have shamed Hawaii by not calling for a ceasefire of Israel's utter evil genocide of the Palestinians, thousands of babies and children murdered, hospitals bombed! What could be more evil than supplying support in funds and weapons to Israel by the U.S. Government? Nothing, except not speaking up for a cease fire, cease of such evil actions by Israel/ US.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 11:00:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wally Inglis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Adrian Tam, Chair

Representative Rose Martinez, Vice-Chair and

Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs

I strongly urge you to pass SCR 13 SD1. In doing so, you will join with the Senate and an overwhelming number of citizens of our state and nation who wish to see an end to the violence, devastation and slaughter in Gaza and throughout the Middle East.

This is not just an issue between Israel and Palestine. For decades the United States has spent billions -- and continues to do so -- in support of Israel's civilian and military occupation and destruction of Palestinian territory. We, as voters and taxpayers, are complicit in the escalating genocide in Gaza. It is our obligation to do whatever we can to bring about a just and peaceful resolution to the current conflict.

Please pass this resolution and send it on the full House for adoption by all of our Representatives.

Respectfully,

Wally Inglis

Palolo Valley

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 11:01:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arif Rahman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am here today to express my strong support for SCR13 and to urge your committee to pass this crucial resolution without amendments. As residents of Hawaii, with our own history of colonization, we hold a moral obligation to stand up for the oppressed people of Palestine.

The devastating conflict in Gaza, exacerbated by military equipment and weapons supplied by the United States, has resulted in the tragic loss of over 13,500 children and 10,000 women. These casualties are a direct result of actions supported by US aid, and as a taxpayer, I am distraught to discover that a portion of my taxes—precisely \$31.84 last year (calculated based on total federal tax revenue and amount given to Israel)—has contributed to these operations. It is profoundly distressing to know that my tax dollars are being used to facilitate military aggression, including the killing of civilians, the invasion of territories, and the ongoing colonization of Palestine.

This connection between our financial contributions as US taxpayers and the actions taken by the Israeli military underlines an urgent need for us to act and advocate for change. It is imperative that we, as a community aware of our own colonial past, demand that our federal representatives reassess the U.S.'s role and influence over Israel to help bring an end to the violence and suffering in Gaza.

A ceasefire is essential not only to halt the immediate suffering but also to allow for the delivery of humanitarian aid and medical supplies and to support negotiations for peace. We must also push for an end to the systems of oppression that underpin this conflict, recognizing that true peace requires justice and systemic change.

As legislators in Hawaii, you have a unique perspective on colonization's impacts and the power of restoration and reconciliation. Let us bring this understanding to our advocacy for the Palestinian people, ensuring that our actions and financial contributions reflect our commitment to justice and human dignity.

Israel's intensification of the Gaza blockade has severely restricted access to essential supplies like water, food, and fuel, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis for the two million residents of Gaza. This ongoing siege highlights the pressing need to address the root causes of this conflict, including the dismantling of the system that has been internationally criticized as apartheid.

A ceasefire is imperative to stop unlawful attacks, reduce the death toll, and allow humanitarian aid to reach those in need. It will enable hospitals to receive essential medicines and equipment and facilitate repairs. Additionally, it will create a space for negotiations on the release of detainees and allow for independent international investigations into alleged war crimes, which is crucial for ending the cycle of impunity and violence.

The parallels between the historical colonization of Hawaii and the current situation in Palestine underscore our responsibility to support those facing oppression. By leveraging the U.S.'s influence over Israel, we can help bring an end to the violence and work towards a just solution.

Mahalo



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 11:08:50 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing to provide my unequivocal support for SCR13 and to implore your esteemed committee to advance this crucial resolution without any amendments. It is imperative for its ultimate, official incorporation into the legislative framework of the Hawai‘i State Legislature. I beseech you to stand in solidarity with your constituents and to utilize your considerable institutional influence to urge our federal elected representatives to employ the United States' significant leverage with Israel, thereby bringing an end to the ongoing violence in Gaza.

SCR13 represents a vital step towards advocating for peace and justice in the Middle East region, particularly in the face of the escalating conflict in Gaza. By passing this resolution unaltered, you will affirm Hawai‘i's commitment to humanitarian principles and the pursuit of a peaceful resolution to the longstanding Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

As citizens, we look to our elected officials to amplify our voices and advocate for meaningful change on the global stage. Now more than ever, it is incumbent upon us to call for an end to the violence and to demand accountability from all parties involved. Through SCR13, the Hawai‘i State Legislature has the opportunity to demonstrate its unwavering dedication to upholding human rights and promoting diplomacy as a means to resolve conflicts.

I urge you to recognize the urgency of this matter and to take decisive action by endorsing SCR13 in its entirety. Let us stand united in our commitment to peace, justice, and the well-being of all people affected by the conflict in Gaza.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, O‘ahu 96826

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 11:13:18 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezra Levinson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the committee,

I am testifying in **strong support** of SCR13 SD1, Urging The President Of The United States And Members Of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation To Support An Immediate And Permanent Ceasefire In Gaza.

I am here today to support this resolution because of my Jewish values. I find it unconscionable that my tax dollars, and those of everyone in Hawaii and across the United States, are funding Israel's genocidal war in Gaza and upholding its system of apartheid that subjugates the Palestinian people. The history and traditions of the Jewish people teach us that Israel's violence is unacceptable, and that we cannot continue to allow it. The Torah teaches that every human is *b'tzelem elohim* – made in the image of the divine. Our history of persecution and genocide teaches us that we must stand and fight against discrimination and oppression wherever it appears – oppression of any group puts everyone in danger.

Representatives, some have already tried to stifle this resolution with false claims that it is somehow antisemitic, but this is a dangerous attempt to use Jews like me as a political shield for the State of Israel as it systematically oppresses and kills Palestinians. These accusations endanger Jews, Palestinians, and everyone in our communities. Please do not be misled into supporting this violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my conviction that "Never Again" ought to mean never again for *anyone*, and that a ceasefire is a necessary step toward peace and justice for all. Once again, I urge you to support this urgent resolution calling for a ceasefire and making clear to our Congressional Delegation that we expect them to listen.

Ezra Levinson, 96734

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 11:32:43 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am in strong support of SCR13 and urge you to pass is unammended. Please demand that US reps leverage US influence over Israel to end the violence in Palestine.

I have become deeply concerned about our role in this massive killing of over 34,000 Palestinian citizens.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 11:53:18 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaitlin Oki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SCR13 as written without amendments. I would like it to pass unamended. Please support the call for a ceasefire! Aloha and Mahalo.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 11:53:44 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Glenn Choy, from Honolulu. I strongly support this resolution and urge its passage unamended. Thank you.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 12:01:01 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel’s system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Thank you for taking this all into consideration and for supporting a ceasefire.

Sincerely,  
Emily Gambino

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 12:01:52 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kala Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kala Fisher, I am a college student at UH. I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring that its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the US's influence over Israel and bring the violence in Gaza to an end.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 12:08:49 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs,

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR13 SD1 and I hope that our congressional leaders do what is right. I cannot stand to think of the loss of any more innocent lives, including women and children, because of our nation's choice to continue allowing this to happen.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 12:32:43 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Abril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 34,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

In addition to the thousands of children killed and maimed by Israel, in December, it was discovered when an Israeli shell struck Gaza's largest fertility clinic, the explosion blasted the lids off five liquid nitrogen tanks stored in a corner of the embryology unit. This act destroyed more than 4,000 embryos plus 1,000 more specimens of sperm and unfertilized eggs stored at Gaza City's Al Basma IVF centre ([Gaza's IVF embryos destroyed by Israeli strike](#)). These are potential children that never had the chance to experience life. The embryos in those tanks were the last hope for hundreds of Palestinian couples facing infertility. Now, that choice was taken from them by an apartheid nation bent on ethnically cleansing Palestinians from their ancestral land.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in both Gaza and Israel and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Sincerely,  
Nathan Abril

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 12:33:42 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

Thank you for your time.

Mahalo,

Julia Marrack, Kamuela



Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the CAI Committee:

I write in support of SCR 13, SD 1.

In November 2023, the American Public Health Association (APHA) issued a [policy statement calling for a ceasefire in the Hamas-Israel War](#):

***"In light of the continuing escalating of civilian casualties in Gaza and Israel and the collapse of the healthcare infrastructure in Gaza, APHA calls upon President Biden and Congress to urgently demand an immediate cease-fire and call for de-escalation of the current conflict by securing the immediate release of the hostages and those detained; by restoring water, fuel, electricity and other basic services; and by passing adequate humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip."***

Since then, the carnage has increased significantly in Gaza and the West Bank through the Netanyahu government's advancement of collective punishment.

Public posturing by the U.S. Congress since the onset of the war has been less than equanimous, to say the least. To the extent that some may view this resolution as superfluous, Hawaii can send a clear message that human rights are of paramount concern.

It was also unfortunate to see the [University of Southern California silence its valedictorian, a Muslim woman, from full participation in commencement activities due to her support of human rights for Palestinians and opposition from pro-Netanyahu groups](#).

As one recent op-ed in *Haaretz* noted, "A horrific crime like that of October 7 cannot justify the crime that has been perpetrated in Gaza since October 8. Standing by is not an option." The authors also bemoaned the dismissal of teachers in Israel "because they are not sufficiently nationalist or patriotic." (Shira Klein & Lior Sternfeld, "[Students Are at the Forefront of Israeli McCarthyism](#)," April 17, 2024 (gifted article).)

An open letter from over 1800 Jewish writers from November 2023, "[A Dangerous Conflation](#)," provides valuable perspective regarding the equation of criticism of the Netanyahu regime with antisemitism:

***"We are horrified to see the fight against antisemitism weaponized as a pretext for [war crimes](#) with stated [genocidal intent](#). We reject antisemitism in all its forms, including when it masquerades as criticism of Zionism or Israel's policies. We also recognize that, as journalist Peter Beinart [wrote](#) in 2019, 'Anti-Zionism is not inherently antisemitic—and claiming it is uses Jewish suffering to erase Palestinian experience.'***

***"We find this rhetorical tactic antithetical to Jewish values, which teach us to repair the world, question authority, and champion the oppressed over the oppressor. It is precisely because of the painful history of antisemitism and lessons of Jewish texts that we advocate for the dignity and sovereignty of the Palestinian people. We refuse the false choice between Jewish safety and Palestinian freedom; between Jewish identity and ending the oppression of Palestinians. In fact, we believe the rights of Jews and Palestinians go hand-in-hand. The safety of each people depends on the other's..."***

***"Accusations of antisemitism at the slightest objection to Israeli policy have long allowed Israel to uphold a regime that [human rights groups](#), [scholars](#), [legal analysts](#), and [Palestinian and Israeli organizations](#) have called apartheid. These accusations continue to cast a chilling effect across our politics. This has meant political suppression in Gaza and the West Bank, where the Israeli government conflates the very existence of Palestinian people with Jew hatred the world over. In propaganda aimed internally at its own citizens and externally toward the West, the Israeli government asserts that Palestinian grievance is not about land, mobility, rights, or freedom, but instead, antisemitism.... The idea that all criticism of Israel is antisemitic [extends a view of Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims as inherently suspect; agents of antisemitism until they explicitly say otherwise."](#)***

Below is the text of a poem by the late Thich Nhat Hanh, who was widely criticized for his peace advocacy during the protracted U.S. military intervention in Vietnam and neighboring countries that produced millions of deaths and gave rise to Pol Pot's genocidal regime in Cambodia.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

*Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu,*  
Nikos Leverenz  
Aliamanu

---

---

Please Call Me By My True Names  
By Thich Nhat Hanh

Don't say that I will depart tomorrow—  
even today I am still arriving.

Look deeply: every second I am arriving  
to be a bud on a Spring branch,  
to be a tiny bird, with still-fragile wings,  
learning to sing in my new nest,  
to be a caterpillar in the heart of a flower,  
to be a jewel hiding itself in a stone.

I still arrive, in order to laugh and to cry,  
to fear and to hope.  
The rhythm of my heart is the birth and death  
of all that is alive.

I am a mayfly metamorphosing  
on the surface of the river.  
And I am the bird  
that swoops down to swallow the mayfly.

I am a frog swimming happily  
in the clear water of a pond.  
And I am the grass-snake  
that silently feeds itself on the frog.

I am the child in Uganda, all skin and bones,  
my legs as thin as bamboo sticks.  
And I am the arms merchant,  
selling deadly weapons to Uganda.

I am the twelve-year-old girl,  
refugee on a small boat,  
who throws herself into the ocean  
after being raped by a sea pirate.

And I am also the pirate,  
my heart not yet capable  
of seeing and loving.

I am a member of the politburo,  
with plenty of power in my hands.  
And I am the man who has to pay  
his “debt of blood” to my people  
dying slowly in a forced-labor camp.

My joy is like Spring, so warm  
it makes flowers bloom all over the Earth.



My pain is like a river of tears,  
so vast it fills the four oceans.

Please call me by my true names,  
so I can hear all my cries and laughter at once,  
so I can see that my joy and pain are one.

Please call me by my true names,  
so I can wake up  
and the door of my heart  
could be left open,  
the door of compassion.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 12:56:26 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Shellko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Biden administration is also calling for a ceasefire do the right thing do not vote for genocide

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 12:58:54 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mia Craft	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 1:08:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Kevin Kekoa Dolan-Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 1:22:19 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is imperative to the humanity of our world that every person with a sliver of power - all of you in the legislature- advocate and push to stop a televised genocide.

if you care about your neighbors, your family, your constituents, vote to audibly support a ceasefire and a defund our American tax dollars from causing violence in the Middle East. Choose people over profits, because as we see this grotesque flex of violence thousands of miles away, we can never forget that our demographic can and will be next if we resist unjust laws.

don't let fascism win in Hawaii.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 1:34:38 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makaiwa kanui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel’s system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues. Hawai‘i is complicit, as our lands are the training grounds for the violence and mass killings at Gaza. I implore you to do what is right.

Mahalo ,

Makaiwa Kanui



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 1:40:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

It is crucial that the Hawaii state legislature join with constituents at this crucial time. After the devastation in Lahaina, as we await much needed Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds to support recovery, it is agonizing to watch our federal tax dollars being used to destroy Gaza and the innocent residents who live there.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Given what we have just experienced on Maui, please support this resolution to save human lives.

---Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawaii

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 1:46:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Rodrigues	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WAR HAS BEEN THE ONLY SOLUTION TO OPPOSITION WHILE INOCENT ARE KILLED. ACCEPTABLE COLLATERAL DAMAGE IS NOT WHEN KILLING INOCENT CHILDREN, ELDERS, FAMILIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO MAKE LIVING IN PEACE IMPOSSIBLE. STOP THIS WAR, SEASFIRE IN GAZA NOW

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 1:54:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jocelyn B Brody	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jocelyn Brody, and I am testifying in strong support for [SCR13/SR6]. I dearly wish I could be in person to give this testimony, but I will unfortunately be at work in the time. I live in Kapahulu right near the Leanard's and my senator is Les Ihara, Jr. I am a Jewish constituent, and feel incredibly strongly that the brutal genocide currently being enacted against the Palestinian people with weapons paid for by my tax dollars is wrong and abhorrent. The killing must stop. Further, I wish, as a Jewish person, to make it plain that to call for a ceasefire is not antisemitic. The conflation of Judaism with Zionism is incredibly harmful both to the Jewish community and the Palestinian community. I come from a Jewish lineage on my mother's side which believes in justice for all, and that is what I'm fighting for. No more genocide for anyone.

The UN has been withheld from passing a Ceasefire resolution by a single veto from the US three times now since October. The international community in general agrees that what is happening now is an appalling humanitarian catastrophe and needs to stop. In Hawaii especially we should see how American militarism is destroying Palestinian land just as it has eaten away at land here in Hawaii.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 2:06:37 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alissa Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

I **strongly support** this resolution. It is imperative that we not just witness the atrocities being committed against the people of Gaza by the Israeli government, but that we act in line with the severity of the situation. As an American Jew, I wish that others had stood up for my people in the 1940s. We have this opportunity now, and I urge you to take action in moving this resolution forward, demonstrating that the people of Hawai'i do not stand idly by.

Thank you for your consideration of this resolution,

Alissa Nelson, LSMW/MPH

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 2:27:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawa'i state legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to end the violence in Gaza.

To date, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry, over 31,184 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces due to the indiscriminate bombing of Gaza, with at least 70% of whom are women and children. An immediate ceasefire is absolutely necessary to save thousands of innocent lives.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 2:30:22 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charlotte Head	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e members of the committee,

I am from the Island of Hawai‘i but I am currently a student at University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.’s influence over Israel to bring the violent genocide unfolding against Palestinians to an end. Please end the US’s complicity in genocide.

Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel’s system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo nui loa,

Charlotte Head

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 2:32:40 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rick Collins	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please pass with much needed and vital resolution. It is beyond appalling to be witness to the unnecessary loss of life and downright slaughter of the Palestinian people. I urge this committee to take the obvious side of supporting essential human rights and dignity. Please pass this resolution unamended so that we can urge our Congress, who represents our voices and our nation, and who arguably has the most influence of any nation in our world to stop this horrific violence. Mahalo for your time and I urge you to pass this resolution, unamended. Rick Collins



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 2:35:50 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Hughes	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in unabated support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 34,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods including: basic medical supplies, water, food and fuel, leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. Furthermore the humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

In direct violation of the ICJ ruling Israel's government continues to weaponize access to food and water by targeting civilians attempting to receive aid as exemplified by the ongoing flour massacres. As this genocide continues the death toll from starvation and disease continues to grow, these are preventable deaths should Palestinians have access to their basic human rights of safe food, water, sanitation, and shelter. To add, clean and safe water is scarce furthermore water that is clean and safe to drink currently requires long treks in increasingly hot weather in order to carry water by hand to family members. I implore the members of this committee to spend a moment and briefly envision themselves carrying gallons of water for miles without shade or shelter in the peak heat of the day in Honolulu. This is the current grim situation for many

survivors (many of whom are under the age of 16) in the North of Gaza as reported by Bisan (4.15.24). To add to the horrific situation, disease continues to run rampant as running water and sanitation are now basically nonexistent, while conditions remain overcrowded as many no longer have homes to return to as they have been levelled by Israeli air strikes. Furthermore the bodies of martyrs pile up along the streets, decomposing at an increasing pace as the temperatures rise further contributing to the spread of disease whilst layering such unimaginable trauma upon the population of Gaza.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and in Israel as well as for independent, international investigations to take place examining the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. As just a little over two weeks ago Israel bombed the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Syria killing 16 (4.1.2024) whilst also continuing to bomb civilian targets in southern Lebanon. It is my firm belief that the best way to stop this expanding conflict is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

To conclude I implore the committee members pass resolution SCR13 unchanged, amplifying the voices of your constituents as well as millions of other protestors globally. Thank you for your attention.

From the river to the sea Palestine will be free.

~LMH

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 2:40:07 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Crystal Theriault	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support for SCR13 without amendment. My daily life has been greatly and negatively affected by witnessing countless vidoes and testimony from people on the ground in Gaza, including Palestinians, medical providers, aid workers, etc. all alarming to the atrocities taking place against the Palestinian civilians, not just in Gaza, but all of occupied Palestine. Through them, I learned about the longstanding occupation and apartheid, the Palestinian prisoners held without charge and tried in military court with a 99% conviction rate, including children, the restrictions on basic foods and sanitary products. I hear organizations like the UN, UNICEF, WHO, Doctors Without Borders, and others share the restrictions and denials of food and aid. Early on I heard about the many amputations, including upwards of 1000 children, and many that horrifically had to undergo the procedure without anesthesia. I watched Israelism, a documentary made by Jewish people that all grew up being fed the same lies and propaganda, and realized has been inaccurately painting the picture of who the terrorists are all along. I learned about the unbelievably strong intertwinings of American and Israeli politics, the majority of our politicians receiving significant funding from Pro-Israel lobbies like AIPAC, including a career long 11.2 million to President Biden. I learned about the journalists being instructed to avoid specific phrasing when discussing Israel/the conflict and being sure to note that every Palestinian death count is attributed to the " Hamas-led Health Ministry" in effort to sew doubt in it's accuracy. I learned this has been the most deadly conflict for journalists since CPJ began monitoring it in '92. I learned about a new acronym needed, WCNSF = Wounded Child No Surviving Family. In a world ruled by corruption, please be our voice, be our hope, be our light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you.

Crystal

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 2:44:58 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dylan Fujii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Make this pass. The US has been complicit in Israel's genocidal actions for far too long. The majority of voters support this, any politician who doesn't is an affront to democracy.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 2:58:53 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kai Kishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawaii State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 3:02:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
H. Doug Matsuoka	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly support this resolution.

The killing of noncombatants--especially children--by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), is the most persuasive recruiting tool Hamas could wish for.

If instead of expensive munitions, what if food, not bombs, were dropped in Gaza? What if Palestinians in the West Bank could live securely and safely without threat of violence? How would any terrorist organization recruit supporters?

If all Palestinians, including noncombatants and children, must pay for Hamas' attack of October 7, then let them be punished, "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot" (Exodus 21:24). But no more.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 3:37:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
david gierlach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 3:39:40 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this resolution unamended. It's way past time for the killing of people in Gaza to stop. The retribution has been at least thirty times over in terms of deaths, injuries, starvation, and infrastructural damage. Please do what you can as Hawaii lawmakers to urge our federal government leaders to stop funding and equipping genocide.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 3:46:08 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Kamalei Stovall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

As a mother of two young children, it has been devastating to witness the brutality and suffering that Israel has inflicted upon Palestinians, especially women and children. I am able to raise my children in safety and peace, but I cannot be content to watch my country send billions in aid and weapons to the murderous government of Israel that is intent on destroying Palestinians and colonizing their land.

For too long, Zionist propaganda has brainwashed us into allowing the IDF to commit atrocities and war crimes under the guise of self defense from antisemitism. Any criticism or objection to the subjugation, colonization, and oppression of Palestine is labeled by Zionists as antisemitism. This has completely confounded the true meaning of antisemitism which is indeed a real threat to the Jewish people. We must educate ourselves, open our eyes and hearts, and speak out and act to stop this genocide, or it will continue to threaten the safety of both Jews and Palestinians for generations to come.

Let Hawai'i be a strong voice of support for Palestine and for peace. I strongly support SCR13 and I hope you will too.

Mahalo,

Lauren Kamalei Stovall

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 3:57:42 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Colleen Rost-Banik, and I am a resident of Waikiki.

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

Mahalo for your time.

Colleen Rost-Banik

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 4:08:01 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jamie Fries	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of the SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution un amended. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the US's influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end. It has gone on too long, and we must stop this now!

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 4:11:19 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge the Hawaii delegation to support a ceasefire in the Israel- Hamas war. The suffering of innocent people can not be the price a modern, democratic country that believes in human rights can legitimately support.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 4:19:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JR Dowd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello my name is JR Dowd I am a resident of Makiki. I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this resolution unamended. This is important to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawaii State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful voice to demand our elected representatives bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

As of this writing more than 33,000 people have been killed in Gaza and tens of thousands more have been injured. Of those 33,000 dead over 13,000 have been children. This violence and bloodshed has gone on long enough. I feel sick with shame and anger every day that we live in a world where this can happen, and the country I live in and pay taxes to can be the biggest supporter of it. Please stand with me and the over 75% of Democrat voters that support an unconditional ceasefire.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 4:19:48 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eman Al-Misky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii needs to lead the nation and support an immediate and permanent ceasefire in GAZA. Over 33,000 people have been killed in GAZA. two-thirds of those killed are women and CHILDREN. Gaza had 36 functioning hospitals and now only has 11 partially functioning hospitals. The people of Gaza need us to stand for them. Please HEL:P them.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 4:26:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nai'a Aplaca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution.



House of Representatives  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs  
RE: SCR 13, SD1

April 17, 2024

Aloha,

My name is Dayna Yogi, resident of Nu'uano, O'ahu, and I am testifying in strong support of SCR13. I ask the Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your voice to demand our elected representatives leverage the United States' influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

Through correspondence with local representatives, it is apparent our government is viewing this issue in a vacuum stating this violence is all in response to Hamas' attack on October 7, 2023. This completely disregards the 75 years of complex history and Israel's occupation over Gaza and Palestinian people. To use self-defense as a reason to validate 38,000+ lives lost and counting, the bombing of hospitals, leveling of cities, and blocking all access points to prevent aid from reaching civilians is unacceptable. Even if we were to view this incident as isolated, the facts are this: Israel has repeatedly violated international law, thousands of lives have been lost and homes destroyed, and nearly 2 million civilians displaced are threatened with starvation. The people of the United States feel horrified and ashamed of our Government's unwavering support of the Israeli government despite these atrocities committed

Although wifi is limited in Gaza, we still live in a hyperconnected world and are witnessing the violence in HD everyday. The media refers to this as a war but the people are calling it "genocide", "ethnic cleansing", and "another Holocaust". We feel we are watching history repeat itself in the worst way.

There has been no accountability from the U.S. and this must change. Your constituents are screaming with all their being, pleading for the U.S. Government to call for an **immediate and permanent ceasefire**. Please. No more lives lost.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

*Dayna Yogi*

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Culture, Arts, & International Affairs Committee,

First, I am incredibly grateful that this Committee chose to listen to the will of the people and schedule SCR13 for a hearing. I fully support this resolution. The community asks that you pass SCR13 unamended.

I am sick and tired of serving as a digital witness to the US-funded genocide of Palestinians, while our federal and state politicians placate, deflect, and insert their oft baseless whataboutisms. I can only imagine how exhausting the past few months have been for the Gazans who have been relentlessly bombed, displaced, starved, and traumatized by our taxpayer dollars. I profoundly fear for the lives of my friends in Palestine and the families of my Palestinian-American friends. Over 30,000 Gazans have died since October 7, with more than 13,000 of that total being children. Israel is currently committing a heinous example of total war.

I have spent over five years serving my country and my state in the Army National Guard. I am well aware of the reckless spending of the US government on foreign wars and the international laws surrounding warfare. The US-funded genocide in Gaza defies seemingly all ethical limitations on warfare imposed and agreed upon by the international community. I have served alongside many friends who will never be the same from the things that they have seen in wars in far-off lands. Meanwhile, innocent Palestinians are being forced to witness and survive similar trauma repeatedly over the last 6 months.

Our federal politicians continue to assert their unwavering support, despite the national peaceful protest movement that has been growing for months. Senator Brian Schatz and Representative Ed Case have been unequivocal in their opposition to a ceasefire. They insist on sending billions and billions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars overseas to provide the weapons that are responsible for these heinous acts. When has massacring Palestinian children and families ever been the priority of the average American family? Never. As our elected body, we need the Legislature's help in legitimizing the demands of a majority of Americans - a ceasefire. Please amplify the voices of Hawai'i's residents in calling for peace and diplomacy.

I recently resigned from my job in government over this issue. I understand that there is a tremendous amount of pressure surrounding this topic, including in this very building. However, if you are not willing to take a stand for what is right, I regret to inform you that you have chosen the wrong profession.

Please pass SCR13 unamended.

Thank You,  
Scott Gifford  
Moanalua Resident  
Hawaii Army National Guardsman

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 4:42:03 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nate Hix	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Had 40,000 lives been lost in Hawai'i, we would spare no effort to prevent further loss. Following the wildfires that razed Lahaina, leaving 101 individuals dead, we placed recovery at the forefront, receiving support from around the globe. We must maintain our commitment to valuing human life, acting now to assist those in dire need by calling for an end to violence. They would unquestionably do the same for us.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 4:58:07 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please put Hawaii on the right side of history and support this bill's call for a ceasefire in Gaza. The death, suffering, and starvation of innocent children and civilians in Gaza is too much to bear.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 5:33:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Gonce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support

## Support for Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution SCR13

Aloha, my name is Lennie Espinoza and I am writing this testimony to show my strong support for SCR13 and to urge this committee to pass this vital resolution **unamended**. The passing of SCR13 as it is will help ensure that a call for a **permanent** and **immediate** ceasefire will be adopted by Hawai'i legislation; a call that our communities have been advocating for since October of 2023.

As the committee of culture, arts, and international affairs, I ask you to stand with your community and use your institutional voice to demand justice for the people of Gaza. Every day, Palestinians are being displaced, starved, and murdered with no end in sight. We as Hawai'i know what it feels like for our lands and children to be taken from us due to the violence of a colonial power. They are losing their culture, their families, and their futures due to unjust and cruel acts of war being supported by the very colonial powers that try to destroy our own. It is our responsibility as a community to stand with Palestine, and call for an end to the traumatizing violence plaguing their everyday lives.

The children of Palestine deserve to live. They deserve to grow up, to practice their culture, and to nurture their lands the way their ancestors did. As representatives of Hawai'i, it is your kuleana to stand up for this right, and pass the resolution of SCR13. We as a people will not give up. We will not stop fighting for the lives of our Palestinian siblings, and will not stop pressuring our government to do the same.

I hope when our keiki learn about what Hawai'i did to support Palestine, your committee and in turn the government of Hawai'i is standing on the right side of history.

-Lennie Espinoza

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 5:59:20 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Raymond Catania	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and members,

I fully support SCR13 in its original form. The future of Palestine, the children, are facing the immediate threat of genocide and starvation.

Raymond Catania, 4215 Kole Place

Puhi, Lihue 96766

**Chair Adrian Tam**

**Vice Chair Rose Martinez**

**House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs**

**Friday, April 19, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR13 SD1 URGING THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL  
DELEGATION TO SUPPORT AN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE  
IN GAZA**

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a union service worker as well as a labor and social justice activist, testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SCR13 SD1**, Urging the President of the United States and Members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation To Support an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza.

The State of Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It would also allow for surviving medical personnel to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair/rebuild damaged hospitals.

A ceasefire would provide opportunities to negotiate the release of Israeli hostages detained in Gaza as well as the Palestinian prisoners who have been long detained by the State of Israel. It would allow for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties, as well as the crimes against humanity committed by Israel in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities if not stopped here and now. While the road ahead will be very difficult, a ceasefire would also allow for an actual long-term political solution to be formed by Israelis and Palestinians, which includes the end of Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians.

Please **PASS Senate Concurrent Resolution 13, SD1** out of your committee. I am sick and tired of our taxpayer money being used to hurt people around the world while all around us, people need jobs, can't get healthcare, wages remain dramatically low, student loans aren't forgiven, kids are starving in school, etc, etc. I am sick and tired of the government in our name (despite



our protests in the streets and in the ballot boxes), giving diplomatic cover to the cruelty being committed to Gazans day after day. We all deserve better, this conflict is escalating further and further into the rest of the Middle East region, with the potential for war between Israel and Iran. Your work here can greatly help in putting the pressure needed to have our delegation fight for peace and justice.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,

State House District 23 | State Senate District 12

Cell: 808-255-6663

Email: [junshinbusiness729@gmail.com](mailto:junshinbusiness729@gmail.com)

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 6:47:02 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carie Lunsford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature.

Can we be a United State? Please don't turn your head at Israeli war crimes. Can you imagine that? United. One. Let's restart America. Let's be a united front against the genocide that impoverishes Hawai'i today. Generational PTSD is one cause of continual genocide... right here at the door. Let's be that state to stand together and send a piece of paper to Biden's desk. Simple ya? A piece of paper... 🙏

Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

Free the ppl in Palestine please. Even the West Bank is dangerous for the palestinian people. Help them , be a humanitarian and be someone to stand up for people. You will be admired, maybe in the beginning you won't be as much but down the road a tiny bit you will be revealed as someone who saved a whole culture of people. Please understand this is what is happening. This culture has been dehumanized and the US provides Military funding to Israeli IOF( Israeli occupational forces) . I am a citizen of the U.S.A and want to have that continue and not need to leave being my government has gone mad... and or a nuclear war because it's been proven that we as a people have forgotten the devistation a nuclear weapon brings! the USA is in a horrible place being that it vowed to support Israel but with that comes responsibility. No genocide in our name, I know our country is built on genocide but we need this to stop, people are needing your support , pls pass the SCR13 Hawai'i ceasefire resolution.

I really hope Biden gets to see this Hawai'i ceasefire agreement. This can help show him really how much this matters to us a United State.

Thank you for you time,

Carie Lunsford

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:01:02 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in VERY STRONG SUPPORT of this resolution. I am travelling and in PA right now to welcome a new grandson into this world. The joy I feel only heightens my immense grief at the killing of thousands of children in Gaza as a result of Israel's war of revenge. I cannot begin to imagine the intolerable grief of those left behind as their families are wiped out. I cannot begin to imagine the depth of suffering of fathers and mothers, grandparents, aunts and uncles as they watch their little ones suffer. Can you?

WCNSF: Wounded Child No Surviving Family. What a chilling abbreviation by doctors of the suffering inflicted on children in this ongoing carnage.

It is appalling to me that our elected representatives have yet to pass a resolution calling for an end to the unacceptable level of killing of innocent civilians paid for with our tax dollars. Killing over 30,000 people in their homes, schools, hospitals; starving women and children, poets and professionals, doctors and healthcare workers, teachers and farmers and ordinary people struggling to survive in the open air prison that is Gaza is NOT a war waged in defense. It is a genocide in which we are fully complicit. Basic humanity and Hawaii's own painful history should compel us to raise our voices and insist on a ceasefire. PLEASE DO SO BY PASSING THIS RESOLUTION. We are not on the right side of history if we simply watch while this genocide continues. I beg you to pass this resolution without delay. Mahalo nui.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:09:58 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dandré Richards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To The Members of The Hawaiian Congress,

I commend the example that this bill sets, prompting Hawaii as the first state to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. I would only hope that the other 49 states in our union follow suit. The effects of war are damning and any direct or indirect action in support of this war should be abandoned, along with a firm stance in demand of peace. Please vote in favor of SCR13.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:13:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe Hartwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of SCR13/SD1 // The Hawai‘i Ceasefire Resolution**

Aloha, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this resolution.

For months, I, along with thousands of your constituents, have called on state and federal representatives to support an immediate and permanent ceasefire and increase humanitarian aid in Gaza. Adopting this resolution would send a message that Hawai‘i stands for peace and justice, and firmly against the indiscriminate killing of civilians.

Including the number of missing presumed dead, some 40,000 people have been killed since Oct 7. That is double the entire UH Mānoa undergraduate and graduate student body. Four Stan Sheriff centers full, including more than 14,000 children. Almost the entire population of Gaza has been displaced, and hundreds of thousands are facing catastrophic hunger, which the UN defines as starvation, death, extremely critical acute malnutrition, and not enough food to sustain basic bodily functions and stay alive. If they have thus far survived, adults and children in Gaza are now starving to death. The status quo also puts the Israeli hostages at risk, as many have reportedly been killed by both the bombing and some directly by Israeli forces. A ceasefire and negotiations would help secure their safe release.

The level of human suffering and destruction (infrastructure, environment, etc.) in Gaza is staggering. Middle East Monitor reports that some humanitarian aid items most frequently rejected by Israel include maternity kits, medicine to treat cancer, anesthetics, sleeping bags, oxygen cylinders, and water filtration. Save the Children US’s president said she has “never seen anything like the level of barriers being put in place to hamper humanitarian assistance.” A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, slow the mounting death toll (thousands could still die of disease, tens of thousands more if there is no ceasefire), and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water, and medical supplies into Gaza.

Lastly, regarding arguments that a ceasefire would allow Hamas to regroup, U.S. research shows that “terrorism” increased in every single place we did military “counter-terrorism operations” for the past 20+ years. This cycle is called Counterinsurgency Mathematics and has been widely studied. Continuing to carpet bomb civilians makes the world a less safe place for everyone.

I respectfully request your support of SCR13 SD1. Thank you again for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Chloe Hartwell, Wailupe, O'ahu

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:28:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please act to stop the carnage and suffering in Gaza!

mahalo,

Cory Harden

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:30:43 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support calling for a ceasefire agreement to return the hostages to their families and stop the killing of innocent people in Gaza.

It's not about being on the side of Israelis or Palestinians. It's about being on the side of peace and supporting those who are working for peace and reconciliation. We must do all we can to end the war immediately. Only peace will bring security to both peoples. It's time to give peace a chance.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:37:36 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Yang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawaii State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage in the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:54:37 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Reema Khasawinah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Respective Legislators,

I request an immediate, permanent ceasefire resolution to end the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Over 32,000 innocent civilians have been killed by Israel with our U.S. tax dollars. Israel continues to attack indiscriminately anything that moves from the unborn to the elderly and even animals. In fact, earlier today, Israel attacked Gaza's largest fertility clinic and in one split second - over 4,000 IVF embryos decimated. Israel targets places of worship, hospitals, schools, refugee camps, "safe routes", ambulances.etc. We must be advocates for those under attack with our U.S. tax dollars. We witnessed the tragedies from the fires in Hawaii last year and insufficient response time. It is time to stop sending billions abroad to kill civilians and use the money for benefits here. Additional reasons for a ceasefire is to allow humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza continuously as starvation is widespread and the populations is dying from lack of food and clean water. Another reason to establish permanent immediate ceasefire is for the release of all hostages, including the 9,000 Palestinians detained.

Thank you for taking the time and I look forward to hearing you announce ceasefire.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:54:59 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

It is time to stand up for justice and for peace in Gaza. Too many people have died. It's too late already. There is absolutely no excuse for this violence, and we as global community deserve better.

Please, we are begging you to support and pass SCR13. It's not enough, of course, and Hawaii doesn't have the power that the federal government has to divest our tax dollars, but we must do what we can on the scale that we can. Hawaii has an opportunity to lead. Please, let us take it.

I want to quickly address the recent strikes launched by Iran, because many are saying that this is why Israel needs support to continue to defend itself. I feel quite differently. I feel that this is why we absolutely must call for a ceasefire, de-escalate, and consider what justice for Palestinians might look like. The idea that the high tensions and chaos of war might lead to an increased scope is horrifying. Isn't it enough that Palestinians are dying? Can we stop this before more civilians die? Before the war expands to threaten Iranian citizens? Yemeni civilians? Israeli civilians? Lebanese citizens? Americans? Hawaiians? The exchange of fire between Israel, the Iranian consulate in Damascus, and Iran is not a reason to keep fueling the fire with our tax dollars; it is just one more reason that this absolutely must stop now.

Please support SCR13 and call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. End the famines. End the blockades. End the apartheid. Let's build the world we want to see.

Jonathan Simonds, Hilo

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:57:30 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Nakamura	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and utilize the power of your institutional voice to demand that our federal elected representatives leverage U.S. influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the violence in Gaza has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements. These are not just statistics. These represent human beings and human lives.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. Now, with 1.5 million Palestinians sheltering in Rafah with nowhere to go, we face the worst of the slaughter should Israel be allowed to invade Rafah.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks and violations of international law, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza, and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire will provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza, with the only release of hostages to date occurring during the temporary ceasefire in November 2023. It will also allow for independent international investigations to take place into any war crimes committed in order to end long-standing impunity which will only continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict by dismantling Israel’s system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians, is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 7:58:48 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charlotte Sandoz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution UNAMENDED.

this is most important to ensure it's official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature.

Please hear and represent your constituents and demand that our federal elected representatives leverage the US influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 8:15:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support a permanent cease fire in Gaza.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 8:17:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements. It's appalling to see the scores of children starving to death or in body bags. This is in humane to let the violence and killings continue.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.



This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter I implore you to do the right thing and support SCR13

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 8:29:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Parsons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of SCR13 and hope you will pass this resolution in amended. The Senate supports a ceasefire, your constituents support a ceasefire, and you should too. It's the right thing to do.

Mahalo,

Amy Parsons

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 8:39:49 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donavan Kamakani Albano	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tam, Vice-Chair Martinez, and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs,

My name is Donavan Kamakani Albano, I am a Kanaka ‘Ōiwi and concerned resident from O‘ahu, Hawai‘i. I am writing to express my **strongest support** for SCR 13 and urge you to pass this measure. As of today, over 33,000 Palestinians have been martyred, many of whom are women and children, since the start of Israel's genocidal campaign against besieged Gaza. Thousands are unaccounted for, buried under rubble. We are witnessing the violence of settler colonialism and occupation through the form of genocide. It has been 193 days--when you read this, it will be 195 days--and we are still at this point of needing to call for a ceasefire. If the state of Hawai‘i believes that supporting Indigenous peoples is integral, then, frankly, the support for this bill should be no question. If you claim to believe that supporting Kānaka Maoli is important, then the liberation of Palestinians is deeply interconnected. The topography of Gaza has literally shifted, suffering under bombardment of colonial genocide.

As a Native person under duress of illegal occupation and the native lands, waters, and skies of whom I am a descendant of continue to be subjected to the violence of imperialism and militarism, I do not stand for the horrific violence endured on occupied Palestine and its native peoples. To scroll through and witness across oceans the violence and genocide before my very eyes each morning is one that many of us are seeing, and no one should be witnessing, let alone experience, that violence. Palestine and its people has endured 75 years of Israel's settler colonial project that includes ethnic cleansing, apartheid, and genocide. Frankly, the fact that it has taken this long to call for a ceasefire is shameful. There must be a permanent and lasting ceasefire immediately. How could any more destruction and elimination be warranted, even for another day? What does it mean for you to sit in your positions and watch a genocide unfold, backed and supported by the U.S., that have made us all complicit in this violence through its financial and military support? Hawai‘i's people are calling for a permanent and lasting ceasefire, a bare minimum, and it is your kuleana as elected officials to listen to the voices of the people.

Can you hear the weeps of Palestinian children and families from across the seas and oceans? We can no longer allow Israel to continue its settler colonial genocidal campaigns and apartheid project, and calling for a permanent and lasting ceasefire is a critical step to ending this genocide. The time is long overdue. Ceasefire now. Thank you for considering this important measure.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:05:15 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Auriemma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

I hope you will deeply consider this testimony in your decision to vote on this measure. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Maya Auriemma

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:06:22 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
THERESE KLATY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

I have watched in horror and shame over the past several months as journalists, doctors, foreign aid workers, brilliant young artists and content creators, children and otherwise normal human beings have shared the absolutely shocking impacts of the brutal, indiscriminant, inhumane and plausibly criminal Israeli military assault, which is also plausible genocide, on Gaza has crossed all red lines, while being greenlit by our government. A full fledged famine is now underway in Northern Gaza due to the Israeli assault and our government's unwillingness to assert sufficient pressure on Israel. Thousands of children have died extremely violent deaths and more continue to be killed every day. The more information gets verified by journalists, aid organizations and the UN, the more shocking the atrocities become.

I have taken to the streets and social media to protest. I have called our Federal congressional delegation almost daily for months urging, demanding, begging them to be the voice of the peace-loving people of Hawaii and call for an immediate ceasefire. A super majority of Democrats are in favor of a ceasefire. The Hawaii State Legislature has the opportunity, ability and I believe responsibility to reflect and raise my voice and the collective voice of the people of this state.

When all facts come to light and genocide is confirmed, we will look back at this time in history and ask ourselves if we did enough to stop it. I have done everything within my power. The people of Hawaii are giving you the opportunity to be able to say you used your position of power to raise our voices for peace.

Therese Klaty

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:13:50 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marisa Pangilinan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please save humanity by showing support for bill SCR13 and end the suffering of Palestinian people. We must stand up for what is pono and righteous. We can't allow Israel to kill more humans in the hopes of peace. War begets war. We must stop this now. Please support the ceasefire agreement now!



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:19:43 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support a ceasefire in Gaza. Why does this need to be explained?

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:34:11 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avalon Paradea	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:39:53 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Meghan van Bergeijk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

Israel's targeting of Palestinian children continues, as the IOF just struck a playground near Maghazi refugee camp, slaughtering 20 people, including 11 children, and leaving dozens wounded.

I've also just learned the story of Sally Abi Laila, aged just 5 years old, who was shot in the head by Israeli forces whilst being carried by her mother. Her mother, Sabreen, told CNN that her daughter was in her arms, as they were trying to return to their homes in the North, when the Israeli soldiers shot her.

A doctor from California who spent 5 weeks in Gaza is quoted: "I was thinking about this young boy who was about 10 years old, who was walking down the street with his sister, probably four or five years old, and a missile struck right next to them and blew out his brains from the left side of the skull. He came into me kind of taking his last breaths and it was this dystopian image in my mind because his sister was right next to him screaming. Shrapnel sheared her right buttock off her body and it was like this horror movie that I was living in real life." -Dr. Mohammad Subeh

There are 9,500+ Palestinians held captive by the Israeli occupation who face medical negligence, sexual assault, and torture.

This indiscriminate violence and genocidal military assault by the Israeli government and its violent settlers in West Bank must not be allowed to continue.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 9:48:57 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeanette Qablawi	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13. As a family medicine physican I support the collective liberation of all oppressed peoples. I know how precious every life is from those I care for every day. Palestinan adults and children deserve to know they are precious too, that the world won't look the other way while they face genocide. As stweards of communities and peoples lives, it is the responsibility of family physicans to call for a cease fire. It is a moral imperative to call for the end of murdering of civilians, that has not just been going on since Obctober but since 1948. As the death toll goes over 30,000 we cannot continue to stay silent. Please open your hearts and see this for what it is and call for an immediate permanat ceasefire and pass this resolution unamended.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:04:39 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ceasefire!

- U'ilani Naipo

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:14:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenji Cataldo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawaii State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The deadly assault on Gaza is made possible by U.S. support, financially and politically. The federal government's choice to stand behind Israel and condone this violence makes us all complicit as taxpayers and citizens. Please use your votes as we are using our voices to say "Ceasefire Now!"

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:16:58 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Witeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge this committee and all our state legislators to approve this resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire. Over 34,000 Palestinians have been slaughtered, many of them children! This massive killing spree is not just and will not lead to peace; it's a shameful stain on both the Israeli and the US governments which is providing Israel with its bombs, missiles and armaments. A total ceasefire is urgently needed as well as massive, life-sustaining food and water for the starving population of Gaza.

Please pass this resolution to urge the US government to use its leverage over Israel to bring about an immediate and permanent ceasefire and to open up ways to get sufficient food and supplies to the people of Gaza



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:31:45 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alicia Nunez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

We must end the U.S. support to Israel's ongoing horrific crimes and violence towards innocent beings in Gaza. We cannot in good conscience support these atrocities be committed against anyone. There is no aloha in war. We can do better. Please put your hearts in the right place, consider what you would want to be done if your own families were in Gaza right now. It's not a hard decision to make when you genuinely put yourself in the realities of the ongoing torture that the Palestinians have been facing every day for the past 75 years. If your very own families were experiencing these atrocities you would want those in power to do the right thing. Well, you have the power to do so. Please support a ceasefire and an end to all violence. All people deserve to live in peace, all people deserve safety and basic human rights, access to food and clean water. The children of Gaza deserve the right to grow up and grow old. Just like our keiki here, they too deserve the right to dream, to sleep peacefully at night close to their parents and their families. No living being should ever endure the amount of pain and suffering and trauma that the Palestinian children, mothers, and fathers have experienced. Please consider listening to your constituents and support this resolution for a ceasefire. The future of our keiki depends on it.

Sincerely,  
Alicia Nunez

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:33:00 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Shimizu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Representative Tam (Chair), Representative Martinez (Vice Chair), and Members of the Culture, Arts, & International Affairs committee (CAI):

I am pleading you all to immensely support SCR13, introduced by United States Congressperson Cori Bush to urgently call for ceasefire in Gaza, Palestine. In the last 7 months or 194 very long brutal days, the Israeli military has murdered almost 40,000 Palestinians and of these tragically high percentage are children with the aid of funding and arms from the United States.

Israel's horrendous crime of genocide towards citizens of Palestine have been identified by many international organizations, including Doctors Without Borders, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and numerous United Nations experts. Furthermore, South Africa backed by 25+ countries brought the State of Israel to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on charges of genocide and the ICJ found the State of Israel to be plausibly committing this crime!

My life has not been the same with watching Palestinians' own videos filmed from their phones documenting this on-going atrocities by Israel government. My heart has been broken, which is why I attended the rally in Waikiki and am begging you to support this resolution today, please ceasefire immediately!

Sincerely,

Sherry Shimizu

Oahu

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:44:10 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kestrel swift	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I very strongly ask for your support on SCR13. Your constituents are speaking out clearly and emphatically in support of a ceasefire resolution and bringing the genocide on Gaza to an end. The United States has the political leverage over Israel to make that happen and you have a powerful voice as a member of the government institution to promote a ceasefire, as well as a responsibility to represent your constituents voices by doing so.

More than 35,000 people have been killed since October 7th, with 34,000 of those deaths being Palestinian people. People are unable to get medical care, or adequate food or shelter. Palestinians are veung deprived of their fundamental human rights, and while being strained through this terrible state of life for months on end, many are being deprived of their lives.

Please, I urge you, speak out in support of Gaza and pass this ceasefire resolution unammended.

Thank you for your time and attention.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:52:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemary Bearden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

My name is Rosemary Bearden, and I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence in Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The level of casualties on Gaza is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

This is a genocide. This is ethnic cleansing. And as decent human beings, and as a country, we cannot allow it to continue any more.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into Gaza to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Aloha,

Rosemary Bearden

Nānole, Hawai'i, 96773

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 10:57:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Saturnino Doctor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha CAI Committee members,

30,000 innocent children, women and men in Palestine are dead. Doctors, Journalists, Aid workers, Medical helpers have been killed. Al Shifa hospital was a killing field massacred by Israel forces. Ceasefire is far over due.

Show humanity and our American influence to end the Genocide in Gaza.

Please vote YES on CR13 as written. No amendment necessary.

Sincerely,

Saturnino Doctor

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 11:05:59 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
imani altemus-williams	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

As a Jew of Color from Hawai'i who does not believe in zionism and who opposes all genocides, I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation by the Israel has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:24:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kyle K Kajihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this resolution. I urge you to pass this resolution calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. History will judge us for what we did, or did not do, to stop a genocide. Hawai'i must not look away or be silent on this issue.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:39:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maseeh Ganjali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please be guided by aloha and stand for what is pono. Please be guided by an unequivocal stance on human rights for all. Enough is enough, war only begets more war. Please support SCR13. Mahalo!

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:44:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aisling Kennedy	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**.

Like many, I have been absolutely horrified to witness Israel’s completely disproportionate attack on Gaza, killing over 33,500 Palestinians, **the majority of whom are women and children** (approximately 14,000 children and babies). This does not include thousands more who are missing or buried under rubble. It is hard to even comprehend the enormous death toll resulting from Israel’s relentless bombing of the Gaza Strip. In addition, at least 76,500 Palestinians have been injured, including many having one or multiple limbs destroyed.

Every day for over six months now, we have witnessed innocent Palestinian men, women and children being killed and injured in the most brutal and inhumane way by Israeli forces, **using weapons supplied and funded the US government**. A father carrying the remains of his son in multiple plastic bags. A little boy scraping human flesh off the side of the road. A little girl with her body shredded, hanging from the side of a building where she was blasted by the force of an Israeli bomb. A young boy being rescued from the rubble where had been trapped, surrounded by the corpses of his dead family. A father who went to find food for his hungry son, only to find him killed by the time he returned for a chocolate bar. A grandfather kissing his dead grandchildren goodbye for the last time. The voice of Hind, a six-year-old girl trapped in a car with the corpses of her dead family as an Israeli tank approached, begging the Red Crescent to rescue her – only to be found murdered two weeks later, along with the Red Crescent workers who had been sent to help her.

Israeli forces have killed civilians, journalists, healthcare workers, aid workers, and even Israeli hostages in Gaza.

Israel have systematically destroyed the healthcare system of the Gaza Strip. Attacks on hospitals are prohibited under international law, however there is **not a single fully functional hospital left in Gaza** due to Israel’s bombardment and blockade. Only a small handful of hospitals are even partially functioning, though with very limited medical supplies. Procedures such as amputations and c-sections are being carried out without anesthesia.

Along with hospitals, Israel have attacked and destroyed the majority of buildings in the Gaza Strip. Including schools, universities, refugee camps, mosques, churches, and residential homes.

In a continuation of Israel's nearly two-decade long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip, Israel have continued to block food, water, fuel, medical supplies, and other much needed aid from reaching civilians. The **entire population** of Gaza are now facing starvation, as well as daily bombing. Thousands more will die of starvation and disease. This is nothing short of **collective punishment**, which is illegal under international law.

What we are witnessing is not a helpless country defending itself, but rather a genocide being committed by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza. The ICJ recently ruled that Israel is plausibly committing genocide. It is abhorrent that our leaders continue to fund and arm this genocidal campaign.

An **immediate and permanent ceasefire** is a necessary first step to stop any further preventable deaths and for both parties to negotiate the release of hostages on both sides, as well as investigations into war crimes to be held. A ceasefire is also necessary to begin to tackle the root cause of this conflict, stemming from Israel's illegal occupation and system of apartheid.

I urge you to please take a stand and pass this resolution **unamended**. Let the federal government and the world know that the people of Hawai'i stand against genocide and the oppression of indigenous peoples.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:52:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ally Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

By passing a permanent ceasefire it would stop unlawful attacks and halt the mounting death toll in Gaza. In addition, it would enable life-saving aid agencies to enter Gaza to provide aid and medical support to those in dire need. The urgency for a ceasefire would also ensure that Rafah, where the majority of the population has been displaced, be protected from further attacks. Rafah's population is made up of a large number of children who are in danger of further attacks as they, along with many others, seek refuge in Rafah where it was deemed "safe"; however, that has not been the case as there is nowhere safe in Gaza.

A permanent ceasefire would prevent further harm to children, women, and men, and would prevent forced mass displacement of Palestinians in Gaza. I still believe that our representatives can make a difference and that they listen to their constituents.

Thank you for your time

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 5:36:22 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Jewell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo,

Jean Jewell

Holualoa 96725

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:31:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Marvin Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this resolution **unamended**.

The level of casualties is unprecedented with a devastating toll on civilians.

This humanitarian catastrophe stems from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip. This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Please vote for SCR13.

Mary Marvin Porter

Island Eyes Video Journalism

Keaau, Hawaii 96749



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:32:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wallace Engberg	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee, I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end. The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements. Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately. A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards. A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities. This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:25:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Zimmel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The children of Gaza are innocent. My tax dollars are being used to slaughter them, to bomb hospitals and food banks. We need an immediate cease fire. We need to tell congress to spend our money on rebuilding after the fires in Maui, to rebuild all the broken bridges in America. The whole world knows without us funding and support Israel would not be able to carry out these atrocities. Unless we as a nation force a cease fire or withdraw our financial support the blood of children of Gaza is on our hands

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:26:43 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew S. LoPresti, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, members of the committee,

I am testifying in **strong support** of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which only continues to breed further atrocities.

This conflict threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Thank you for your vital attention to this matter.

Matthew S. LoPresti, Ph.D.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:32:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tatsuki Kohatsu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Tatsuki Kohatsu. I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. It is critical to ensure its final and official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents to demand the federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence to bring the violence in Gaza to an end

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:33:31 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Devine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:35:31 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs,

I am a legislative attorney for the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs testifying as an individual in strong support of SCR13.

It is appalling that the United States continues to be complicit in the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza. Of course I want to wrap myself in the complacency that privilege allows. Of course I want to scroll past the images of war that will haunt me the rest of my life. Human flesh and organs smashed by IOF tanks; surgeons amputating children's limbs without anesthetic; children shaking and silent besides the corpses of their dead siblings; starving and sick humans and animals. What can I do besides use my voice to plead that our lawmakers support immediate ceasefire? Plead that the nation provide aid to Gaza instead of weapons to Israel. Plead for the humane treatment and assistance to citizens who had nothing to do with the heinous attack by Hamas on October 7th.

It is surreal in the most dystopian sense that our legislature must consider a resolution that urges Hawai'i's delegates to support a ceasefire resolution in Congress. Our state must take a stand against genocide. Every day we spend in contemplation is another day we deprive humans in Palestine of the most basic elements of life. We must do everything we can to alleviate their suffering with utmost urgency.

Thank you,

Jennifer Meleana Hee

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:37:22 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am a resident of Lahaina. Thank you so much for hearing this resolution urging the President and Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to support an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. I am **in strong support of resolution SCR13 SD1.**

While many believe that this is a federal matter, the people of Hawai'i want to see our legislators pass this resolution standing in solidarity with the Palestinians. Resolutions are a tool frequently used to express official opinions by our legislators, and this is an important stance for us to take publicly. Our kaiaulu not only stands against oppression but is also frustrated to see our federal tax dollars spent sending weapons to perpetuate a war across the world rather than helping us rebuild Lahaina.

Please pass this ceasefire resolution to show your support for peace and freedom for the Palestinians! We are living in a global society, and it is important to use resolutions to stand up for what is right whenever we have the chance. Please allow Hawai'i the opportunity to be the first state urging the President to call for a permanent ceasefire. It would make us so proud!

Thank you for your consideration.

Jackie Keefe

State Senate Candidate

Hawai'i District 6



Jack

Hö

[jackieforhawaii.org](http://jackieforhawaii.org)

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:40:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kawamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Culture, Arts, and International Affairs Committee:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13. I urge your committee to past this resolution unamended to ensure its adoption by the State Legislature.

As the descendant of plantation workers and the granddaughter of a World War II incarcerated Japanese descent, I know the harm of racial injustice and the importance of civic engagement.

As an ordained minister of The United Methodist Church, which for many years has advocated for the human rights of the Palestinian people, I know our ethical and moral obligation to call for an end to violence.

While Gaza and Palestine may seem a world away, the reality is that the federal government is using our tax dollars to support the massacre of civilians. For this reason, we must call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Respectfully,

Rev. Jessica Kawamura

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:43:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Haylee Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Haylee Watson and I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolutiuon unamended. This is criticial to ensuring its final, offical adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Isreal to bring the violence in Gaza to end.

Mahalo,

Haylee Watson

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:10:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Selena Vanapruks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. It is critical that the people of Hawai'i, having themselves suffered innumerable losses due to colonization, stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine. Although this measure is 6 months too late, we must call for a ceasefire in Gaza and end this senseless loss of life.

As a medical student in Hawai'i, I have dedicated my life to saving others. I study hard every day, and I strive to understand the sanctity of life and the absolute immutability of death. I cannot sit idly by as humans in Gaza are stripped of their basic right to live—never again able to follow their dreams, pursue an education, fall in love, or eat a warm, homemade meal. I am so fortunate to be able to go home tonight and hug my mother, but the 12,300 murdered and 20,000 orphaned children in Gaza cannot do the same.

Please show the world that Hawai'i stands for Humanity.

Please pass SCR13 unamended.

Aloha pau'ole,

selena

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:15:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hawane Rios	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

It's been 6 months since Israel launched its catastrophic assault on Gaza. More than 33,000 Gazans are dead. Another 75,000+ have been wounded, and another 7,000+ are still missing and presumed dead.

This genocide in Gaza is the deadliest in the 21st century in terms of its pace. In only the first 100 days, 1 out of every 100 Gazans was murdered, including 1 out of every 85 children in Gaza. That was months ago. Things have only gotten worse.

The U.S. continues to fund and arm Israel, while utterly shattering the perception that any kind of "rules-based" international order exists. A permanent ceasefire is a necessary first step to save more innocent lives from being extinguished.

The public has made it abundantly clear that we support the Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution. Please ensure that SCR13 is passed. It is your moral imperative to do right by the people of Hawai'i and right by all people. Ceasefire now!

Kū Kia'i Palesetina,

na Hāwane Rios

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:18:49 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai nō,

**I am writing to express my strong support for SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended.** This is critical to ensuring its final official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature.

I am deeply troubled by the ongoing conflict and its devastating impact on innocent civilians, particularly children and families, in the region. While this conflict does not directly impact us in Hawai‘i, living in a world rife with such conflict and violence takes a toll on our collective well-being. A ceasefire offers a glimmer of hope and for peace in Gaza, and the world, allowing communities to rebuild, heal, and envision a better future.

Together, we can create a more just future for our keiki and the globe. I believe we have a moral responsibility to speak out against injustice and advocate for the rights and dignify of all people. We cannot standby idly while such suffering continues unabated. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives lever the U.S.’s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

Mahalo piha for considering my testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or clarification on my views regarding this resolution.

J. Kēhaulani Lucas  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai‘i

RE: Testimony of Will Caron  
Strong Support for SCR13: The Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution  
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs  
April 19, 2024

Aloha members of the committee,

Thank you for scheduling this important resolution, and for giving the community the chance to testify. With all my heart, I am in full support.

Over the past few months, your constituents have organized dozens of rallies across the archipelago in all four primary counties, multiple teach-ins, and a thousands-strong march through Waikīkī. They have sent in tens of thousands of emails and made thousands of calls to elected officials at both the federal and state level—including all of you—making it known that Hawai'i stands with Palestine.

On Thursday, March 21, the Hawai'i State Senate adopted SR6 by a vote of 24–1, and sent SCR13 over to the State House. This followed a unanimous vote by the Hawai'i County Council to adopt Resolution No. 449-24, titled “Demonstrating the Aloha Spirit and Fostering Peace, Diplomacy, and Unity within the County of Hawai'i, the State of Hawai'i, and Beyond.”

The Hawai'i State House should now add its voice as well, and join its constituents and legislative colleagues in calling for an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza, and for the opening of negotiations for a lasting peace—a peace that includes liberation for Palestinians.

If the Hawai'i State House were to adopt this resolution as well, it would send a signal to our Congressional delegation, and the Biden Administration, that Hawai'i's government and its people demand an immediate end to the indiscriminate killing of Palestinian civilians in Gaza, the West Bank and throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel.

The rate of civilian casualties in Gaza is unprecedented in the 21st century. Some 30,000–40,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7, and the majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000 have been wounded, and many thousands more are missing under the rubble of Gaza. In only the first 100 days of Israel's assault on Gaza, 1 out of every 100 Gazans was murdered, including 1 out of every 85 Gazan children. This is the worst rate of killing of any genocide in the 21st century.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. More than 1 million of these people are now at imminent risk of starvation. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.



A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza, and enable aid agencies to get life-saving food, water and medical supplies into Gaza to address the staggering levels of human suffering there. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza, and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties, in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Introducing and passing the Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution this legislative session is the first step in a long road to collective liberation. But it is an important step, and one that we residents of Hawai'i, your constituents, are raising our combined voices to support.

Lawmakers, listen to your constituents. Please pass the Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution out of your committee with full support. Let's show the world that—in Hawai'i—we believe in peace, justice and liberation for all people.

If we can keep in our minds the long-term vision of a world in which oppressive systems are universally dismantled—and recognize that we need to stay in it together for the long-haul to get there, one step at a time—we just might have a chance at making it. And we must, because truly none of us are free until all of us are free.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Free Palestine.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:29:57 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danielle Beaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of [SCR13/SR6]. The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 40,000 civilians have been killed since Oct 7, and the majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000 have been wounded, and many thousands more are missing under the rubble of Gaza.

At the same time, some 200 Israeli hostages taken by Hamas and other armed groups and held in Gaza remain in danger, and ongoing indiscriminate rocket fire into Israel places its own civilians at risk.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:31:49 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
INGA GIBSON	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

CAI Committee

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR SCR13; GAZA CEASEFIRE

Dear Chair Tam and Committee members,

As we speak, an average of 100 Palestinians, the majority of whom are women and children are still being killed DAILY. More than 1.5 million Gazans are facing starvation and disease. More than 110,000 Palestinians have been killed, maimed and still lie beneath the rubble. This is not a war-- this is a massacre.

History will remember where each of us stood, or didnt, in the face of this horrific genocide. I respectfully urge the Committee to support this Resolution as a small but important step in our collective humanity, that the violence must end, now.

Mahalo nui loa,

Inga Gibson

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:37:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
smita Paul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

At this point in time when the entire world is at risk, I can not understand how anyone is against this resolution. Israel is the biggest threat to world peace - and not standing for a ceasefire is basically agreeing with their genocide in Gaza and the West Bank, the bombing of Lebanon, Syria and Iran. When you are silent about a genocidal racist regime, you are agreeing with it. Hawaii does not agree with any of this. I am a resident of Maui and I am disgusted by how timid our officials are to stand up for what is right, stand up for humanity and against this genocide. Be strong and say something. This affects every single member of the human race - Israel is the biggest threat to each of the members of our armed forces, the biggest threat to the United States and the biggest threat to the environment. For decades, most of the violence and cruelty of Israel was hidden and now it is revealed to the entire world - if you do not stand up to this tyranny, you are enabling it. I know that I am doing what I can with the little power I have as an individual - but those in power - how will history look at you? Did you stand up and say no! Or did you just cave to zionist players and let more innocent people die?

I moved to Hawaii because it has a history of standing up against prejudice and fascism. Uphold that history and be the first state to say NO! to killing more children, to torturing and abusing and murdering civilians. NO to zionists controlling our government on every level. It will also send a message to all states that they can also stand up and not be under the tyranny of our genocidal government. Hawaii has suffered a genocide itself - should it not be the one to call for an end to this one?

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:45:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kinsley McEachern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

I have loved ones in Gaza who are fighting to stay alive every single moment of the day. They have rescued countless animals like cats and dogs and donkeys who have been maimed or abandoned due to the genocide. They have been displaced from their house multiple times and constantly living fearful they might be bombed in the next place they travel to. The psychological trauma of being trapped in a constant warzone and genocidal state in addition to the physical trauma of being injured and the mental fear of dying potential death everyday in addition to seeing loved ones , sometimes one's entire family decapitated by a bomb and murdered right in front of you is a nightmare beyond what one could ever imagine. Could you imagine that as a reality? If I was in Gaza right now I would want the rest of the world to be doing everything they could to help us. We are all one. These children are our children.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal

blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Please if you were wondering what you would be doing if genocide occurred in history this is it . So please follow a moral ground and protect humanity .

Mahalo Nui,  
Kinsley McEachern

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:46:36 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Kaolelopono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in **strong support of SCR13** and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by

dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever.  
That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

Tiare Ka'ōlelopono  
Kāne'ohe Constituent  
(808) 375-2049



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:49:18 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Juliette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

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Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:50:54 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha members of the Culture, Arts & International Affairs Committee,**

**I am testifying in strong support of SCR13. I urge you to pass this important resolution unamended.**

**Genocide, an intentional man-made catastrophe of epic and historic proportions, requires an immediate permanent ceasefire, reinstatement of UN Relief and Works Agency, an immediate/permanent end to arming/funding Israel, and deoccupation of Palestinian territories.**

**The International Court of Justice, a pillar of the UN structure has stated emphatically “Not only has Israel created one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, but it is also displaying a callous indifference to the fate of Gaza’s population by creating conditions that the ICJ has said places them at imminent risk of genocide.”**

**Eighty-eight countries formally joined together on filing the genocide charges, with many more countries signing on or filing separate complaints. Unfortunately, the Biden administration has used its veto power on the UN Security Council to block a call for immediate cease-fire in Gaza three times, and the US was the only veto. Yet now, even the Biden Administration has changed course and supports a ceasefire due to overwhelming public support.**

**It is time to part ways inhumane, criminal and insane war policy especially in regard to Israel. This is not antisemitic, this is the moral, ethical and humane high road. Since the UNs Human Rights Council was formed in 2006, it worked to resolve as many resolutions condemning Israel alone than on issues for the rest of the world combined.**

**In the current Gaza genocide, war crime violations under internationally accepted rules of armed conflict from the 1949 UN Geneva Conventions, which emerged to protect civilians in wartime, include**

- 40,000 murdered**
- 10,000 buried alive, under the rubble left to die**
- 13,500 children murdered, one every 15 minutes**
- 340 medical staff targeted and murdered**

- **A record-setting 130 journalists targeted and murdered**
- **136 UN staff murdered, hundreds detained and tortured**
- **fastest decline of nutritional status the world has ever seen**
- **Record-setting 69,000 tons of explosives dropped**
- **83% of water sources destroyed**
  
- **Human Rights Watch verified use of white phosphorus munitions**
- **Restrictions of movement, imports, food, water, medical, educational, and construction materials**

**Now, why is it so important to me that we as a state, move forward with a resolution for ceasefire and peace? Here in Hawaii, it is impossible to not to see the destructive forces of colonization. We must stand in support of life, of sacred justice, of another occupied people, even though they're a world away, and begin to break up the silent support of the way things are, the status quo of America's military industrial and educational complex, because we know well if we continue to let the US military lead us, we know where that will lead. It ultimately leads to genocide. And we cannot, must not, any longer, be silent.**

**Thank you.**

**With respect and aloha,**

**Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian**

**Pahoa, Hawaii**

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:53:31 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Sarasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in **strong support of SCR13** and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues. Please support this measure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Emily Sarasa, 96816



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:54:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
George Hudes	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I testify today as a constituent who has lived and worked in Hawaii since 1969 and as an individual informed by values garnered from my Jewish tradition as taught to me in my religious upbringing in a family of holocaust survivors from Austria & Germany.

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

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A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:56:26 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizer Rios	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

7 months of displaying your complacency in genocidal political tactics in favor of the occupation state of Israel is worthy of a heartfelt and loud "FUCK YOU!"

How do you sleep at night knowing you wake up daily, on STOLEN Kanaka land and represent its people by remaining complicit in the destruction of the Palestinian people?

Shame on you.

**CEASEFIRE NOW. HOLD ISRAEL ACCOUNTABLE. STAND WITH ALL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.**

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:58:10 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear respected committee members, I hope you're doing well and staying healthy. I am writing to you today to support bill SCR13, which I believe is significant and timely.

Imagine all the people.  
Livin' life in peace.

The peace in the world is not a childish dream. It could happen, and we shall do everything we can to live and gift a peaceful life. It's 2024, and it's unacceptable that countries are still starting war one way or another. There should be a Department of Peace that makes actual politics. Politics is negotiation; politics is not starting a war. It feels like leaders forgot their titles as politicians. Love can win, and love will always win. Choose the light over the darkness. The spirit is watching every little decision we make. So make a decision that keeps your spirit uplifted and peaceful and makes your ancestors and children proud, please. Lastly, do not be afraid of evil. It might look like winning on earth, but with every new seed, love always wins.

Mahalo! May Aloha be with you!

Ezgi Green/ Waialua

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:00:27 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Grace Alvaro Caligtan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge the committee to pass this critically important resolution unamended. Final adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature aligns with the Aloha Spirit law and puts into historical record that the will of the people do not align with acts of genocide and the blocking of necessary humanitarian aid. Our federal elected representatives must also be clear that our tax dollars should not underwrite this violence and the United States' influence over Israel must be used now to bring the violence in Gaza to an end immediately.

Sincerely,

Grace Alvaro Caligtan

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:00:30 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan McCorry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please join many states in the US requesting a cease fire on behalf of the Palestinian people! Hawaiians know how deeply we are all connected on this planet. Children are starving to death as aid is unable to reach them in unsafe conditions. Thank you, Susan McCorry

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:02:16 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop financing warmongering around the world under the guise of "defence".

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:02:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Gaylord	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SCR13 and implore you to pass this essential resolution unamended to leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring an end to the horrific violence in Gaza. Estimates of over 40,000 mostly children and women have been killed by this illegal and indiscriminate attack.

Mahalo ~ Carol Gaylord

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:02:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacquelyn Chappel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of the Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution ([SCR13](#)) supporting a ceasefire in Gaza.

As this conflict rages on and Gaza recedes from the minds of many in the US and in Hawaii, it is MORE important than ever to support this resolution.

The resolution makes a strong statement from the state of Hawaii, a state that also has a history of illegal occupation, that we support peace in Gaza.

Does Israel have a right to defend itself? Yes, but it is a war crime to intentionally hurt citizens, which is what it is doing as it claims to "destroy Hamas" (which some argue is not possible, because Hamas is an idea).

Israel has lost international clout and sympathy because of these killings, and yet the US continues to support Israel militarily. We--each of and every one of us in Hawaii-- are COMPLICIT in this war through our tax dollars. It is for this reason we must make a stance to support a CEASEFIRE.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:07:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sunaina Keonaona Kale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end. As a Kanaka Maoli woman, I recognize that the Palestinian people's land is occupied like ours is, and that it is our duty to stand in solidarity with other Indigenous people. The most basic and humane thing we can do now is institute an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.



This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues. Please stop this violence and destruction now.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:09:17 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brianna Blackburn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am expressing strong support for SCR13 and respectfully urge you to approve this significant resolution without modification. This action is essential for the resolution's ultimate adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please advocate for your constituents by using your influence to encourage our federal representatives to leverage the U.S.'s diplomatic power over Israel, aiming to end the violence in Gaza.

The intense escalation of the conflict between Israel, Hamas, and other armed groups has caused devastating harm to civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented, with approximately 33,000 Palestinian civilians killed since October 7, and an additional 7,000 missing and presumed dead. More than 70,000 have been injured, many sustaining severe and lasting injuries.

A majority of the deceased are women and children. With a current count of 14,000 children killed, leaving another 26,000 children orphaned. Every ten minutes a child is killed or has a limb amputated. This brutal conflict has killed more children in four months than has been killed globally in four years.

Israel's heightened siege of Gaza has blocked the delivery of essential goods such as water, food, and fuel, leaving the 2 million residents of the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The ongoing humanitarian crisis due to Israel's 16-year-long blockade of Gaza will worsen if the conflict does not end immediately.

A ceasefire would halt unlawful attacks from all sides, stop the rising death toll in Gaza, and enable aid organizations to deliver critical supplies and medical aid to alleviate the immense human suffering. It would also allow hospitals to access crucial medical resources and equipment needed to treat the wounded.

Moreover, a ceasefire would facilitate negotiations for the release of hostages held in Gaza and allow independent international investigations into war crimes committed by all parties, aiming to address long-standing impunity and prevent future atrocities.

This conflict risks expanding into a larger regional war, and the best way to prevent that is to end the violence in Gaza. Addressing the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's

apartheid system against Palestinians, is more urgent than ever. However, this cannot happen while the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:10:14 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Ancheta Galacgac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Please pass SCR 13 to call for a permanent ceasefire and end the funding and support of Israel.** I urge you to oppose the transfer of more weapons as it is clear that Netanyahu and the Israeli government have rejected any resolution of peace.

Over the past months, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) have murdered Palestinians, leaving thousands injured, and children orphaned. Thousands still remain under the rubble, while survivors are suffering from forced starvation and dehydration and lack of medical attention. The violence and terror perpetuated by Israel has been relentless as the U.S. remains complicit.

Whose safety is protected by Israel? The world cannot ignore the sexual violence that Israel perpetuates. Israeli soldiers have sexually harassed and assaulted Palestinians, with documented cases going back decades. IOF soldiers have also abused and assaulted female soldiers within their ranks. In the same vein of lack of accountability and justice for survivors, sexual abusers and predators have found a safe haven in Israel. No one is safe.

Israel has been targeting hospitals, schools, universities, mosques, and many significant cultural and historical sites. Israel is systematically destroying Gaza and erasing Palestinians from the map. This is a genocide. Journalists have also been targeted to silence the truth.

Israel has flooded tunnels under Gaza with seawater, permanently destroying Gaza's aquifer and main source of water, causing irreparable damage to agricultural land meant to feed its people, and even resulting in roads and buildings collapsing. Israel bulldozed over life-giving olive trees and leveling housing and neighborhoods.

How can starving people be massacred and punished as Israel with tanks, guns, drones, and what appears to be impunity as their military and settlers commit crimes against humanity? Exacerbating the suffering of Palestinians, Israeli settlers are blockading aid to the Palestinian people who dying of hunger and dehydration having already been displaced from their homes and losing loved ones. I cannot imagine the psychological impacts this will have for generations on the children and land.

The U.S. must stop Israel in the terror and violence. Permanent ceasefire now. End the genocide. Lift the siege. End the occupation. Support the right for Palestinians to return to their ancestral homelands. Let Palestine teach us what it means to live. Free Palestine.





**JOSH FROST**

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peoplesdialectic.com

Friday, April 19, 2024

SCR13 / SR6 SD1

**Testifying In Support**

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Culture, Arts, and International Affairs committee:

I am Jewish. And I acknowledge the goal of Hamas is the eradication of Jews and the Jewish State. But my Judaism will not and cannot excuse Israel's vengeful over-reaction and retaliation against Hamas for their attack on October 7th.

As a human and citizen of the world, I will not and cannot support nor condone the egregiously bloody and senseless violence being waged against the people of Gaza in the name of self-preservation.

As a pacifist and someone who does not acknowledge the notion of "just war," the violence committed by Hamas against Israelis cannot be condoned. But to compare the actions of Hamas on equal footing with that of a nation with 17th most powerful military in the world.<sup>1</sup>

That Hamas shields itself behind innocent Palestinians cannot excuse Israel's brutal assault.

Just last night, President Biden acknowledged that 30,000 innocent Palestinians have been killed since the beginning of this senseless conflict. Any who believes the Israeli IDF can eradicate Hamas in Gaza is either naive or using that goal as an excuse to wage war against a helpless people. Violence begets violence. Those Palestinians who somehow survive are just as likely to seek vengeance against Israel's most recent acts of cruelty.

from an Israeli leader and military hell-bent on war. This cannot be the solution. After all the senseless killing comes to an end, however long it takes to get to that point, talking will come next. Diplomacy will come next to settle the terms of the ceasefire.

Pressure needs to be exerted by the United States, Israel's closest ally. We need our congressional delegation to stand up for the innocent lives under assault, support in the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.globalfirepower.com/countries-listing.php>

strongest terms a ceasefire, and bring an end to the brutality and cruelty of Israel and the IDF.

Should your eyes come to rest momentarily on my testimony, please take a few extra minutes and watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJP9o4BEzil>. Dr. Who is one of my favorite science fiction shows. In this clip, he talks about the senselessness of war. The context isn't important, but it truly reflects my own thinking on war in general and the current conflict in Gaza.

Please support this resolution and add your voices to the chorus calling for an end to the current violence taking place in Gaza.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

April 19, 2024

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

My name is Pastor Casandra Chee of Wahiawā United Church of Christ. I am in strong **support** of SCR 13 SD1 “URGING MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY UNITED STATES CONGRESSWOMAN CORI BUSH.” Mahalo to Senator Maile Shimabukuro for introducing this Resolution.

Palestinian Christian Theologian Dr. Mitri Raheb writes “Christian theologians continue to use language and theological ideas that support current Israeli settler colonialism, causing great harm to the people of Palestine. It is time to decolonize this theology that strips the indigenous Palestinian people of their land, livelihood, and roots. It is time to rupture the theological software that enables Israeli oppression of the people of Palestine. It is time for a paradigm shift, and we must begin with the reality on the ground.”<sup>1</sup>

The reality on the ground is over 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since October 7th, that is over twice the population of Wahiawā. **Forty seven faith leaders** from across Hawai'i signed the below statement a Hawai'i Interfaith Call for a Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza. We urge you to pass SCR13 SD1 and take all actions to bring about a ceasefire as soon as possible.

Mahalo nui,

Rev. Cassandra Chee  
Wahiawā, O'ahu

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 19, 2024**

**(Signatures updated 3/7/2024)**

**Contact: Cassandra Chee, [cassandralchee@gmail.com](mailto:cassandralchee@gmail.com)**

## **Hawai'i Interfaith Call for a Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza**

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<sup>1</sup> Raheb, Mitri. *Decolonizing Palestine The Land, The People, The Bible*. Orbis Books, 2023. Pp. ix.



We, faith leaders of Hawai'i, undersigned, are calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. We live in the Hawaiian Kingdom which has been illegally occupied by the United States since January 17th, 1893. Now over a hundred years later we join the many who call for the de-occupation of Hawai'i, Palestine, and all occupied nations across the world.

We are calling upon Representative Jill Tokuda and Representative Ed Case to support [House Resolution 786](#) "Calling for an immediate de-escalation and cease-fire in Israel and occupied Palestine"; and we are additionally calling upon Senator Brian Schatz and Senator Mazie Hirono to support a Senate counterpart when and if it surfaces. We thank Senator Hirono for being the first congressperson from Hawai'i to publicly call for a ceasefire.

We are calling upon Governor Josh Green and all members of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives and members of the Hawai'i State Senate to support measures which call for an immediate ceasefire including [Senate Resolution 6](#) and [Senate Concurrent Resolution 13](#) "URGING MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY UNITED STATES CONGRESSWOMAN CORI BUSH." We thank Senator Maile Shimabukuro and Senator Mike Gabbard for introducing these resolutions.

The conflict between Israel, Hamas, and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Nearly 30,000 civilians have been killed since October 7th and the majority of them are women and children. (An additional credible-but-as-yet-unverified 7,000 civilians are "under the rubble" of the northern area of the Gaza Strip and presumed dead. Also, some 68,000 Gazan civilians are in a "wounded" category.) A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the ever-surging death-and-wounded toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and a repair to damaged wards. Importantly, a ceasefire would lead imminently to a resolution of the hostage crisis (Israelis taken into Gaza on October 7th; thousands of Palestinian prisoners languishing without legal recourse in Israeli prisons) on both sides.

We reject Settler-Colonial Zionism, the extremist ideology which displaced some 750,000 Palestinians from their homes, towns, and land in 1948-9 plus many thousands more in the intervening 75 years (many of them, effectively imprisoned via siege/blockade in the Gaza Strip). We condemn all forms of religious violence and intolerance including Islamophobia, anti-semitism, and Christian supremacy.

"Why is it totally acceptable and commendable to resist oppression in other contexts, yet there is a double standard when it comes to Palestinians? Why is every Israeli violence "self defense" while every Palestinian violence "terrorism"? . . . Repeatedly throughout the years, the Palestinian Christian community and the great majority of Muslims have been committed to non-violence and to dialogue. Even in the midst of violence and oppression that we face daily in every aspect in our life." (Rev. Dr. Munther Issac of Christmas Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem) We support nonviolence as the de-escalation of violence and we support Palestinians in their rights to defend their land, families, and selves.

As South African Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu said, “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” While we are people of many faiths and cultures, we are united in demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire for true peace and an end to violence.

**Rev. Alan Mark**

Retired United Methodist Pastor  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**Rev. Amy Chieko Wake**

Trinity United Methodist Church  
Pearl City, Oahu

**Rev. Bob Miyake-Stoner**

United Methodist  
Aiea, Oahu

**Kahu Brianna Lloyd**

Ka Hana O Ke Akua  
Wai‘anae, O‘ahu

**Pastor Brenda Wong**

Waimānalo, O‘ahu

**Rev. Brittani Alexander**

Honolulu, Oahu

**Pastor Cassandra Chee**

Wahiawā United Church of Christ  
Wahiawā, O‘ahu

**The Rev. Christopher PJ Golding, SCP**

Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i  
Makawao, Maui

**Senior Pastor Rev. Darren Galindo**

United Church of Christ  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Rev. David Yoshida**

The Giving Circle Church, UCC  
Honolulu, O‘ahu

**Fr. David Gierlach, SCP**

Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Eric Paul**

Church of the Nazarene  
Kailua Kona, Hawai‘i

**George M Hudes**

Jewish Voice for Peace Hawaii  
Honolulu, Oahu

**The Rev. Prof. Gregory Johnson**

St. Elizabeth of Kapalama  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Dr. Kahu Haaheo Guanson**

Pacific Justice & Reconciliation Center  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Kahu Mua Heather Barfield**

Kaumakapili Church  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Imam Dr. Ismail Elshikh**

Muslim Association of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Rev. Dr. Jack E. Belsom**

United Church of Christ  
Wailuku, Maui

**Rev. Jessica Kawamura**

Aiea, Oahu

**Jim Albertini**

Malu 'Aina  
Ola'a (Kurtistown), Hawaii Island

**John Witeck**

Hawaii Workers Center  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Rev. JP Sabbithi**

Joy of Christ  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Dr. Kahu Kaleo Patterson**

Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Dr. Ketty Mobed**

Humanists of Hawaii  
Kaunakakai, Molokai

**Kristen Young**

Faith Action Hawai'i  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Rev. Mary K. Herbig**

United Church of Christ  
Kailua, O'ahu

**Kahu Moanike'ala Nanod-Sitch**

Ka 'Ohana o ke Aloha  
Kailua, O'ahu

**The Rev. Dr. Moses D. Barrios**

Faith Action Hawai'i President  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Makaiwa Kanui**

Hilo, Hawai'i

**Rev. Malia Galindo**

Church of the Crossroads  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Malie Sellers**

Keaau Friends Worship Group  
Keaau Hawai'i

**Rev. Mary Paik**

Kailua, Oahu

**Rev. Dr. Michele Shields**

United Methodist Church  
Kaneohe, Oahu

**Kahu Napua McShane Burke**

Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ  
Waiakea Uka, Hawai'i

**Rev. Neal MacPherson**

United Church of Christ  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Noel J. Kent**

UH Manoa  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Rev. Piula Alailima**

Wesley United Methodist Church, Kahala  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Rev. Pua Kekaula Kāneali'i**

Church of the Nazarene  
Kalama'ula, Molokai

**Rebecca Woodland**

Central Union Church  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Kahu Rennie Mau**

Hawaii PAAM  
Honolulu, Oahu

**Rona Mangayayam**

Honolulu, Oahu

**Ronald Fujiyoshi**

Retired missionary, United Church of Christ  
Hilo, Hawai'i

**Rev. Dr. M. Scott Landis**

Ordained Minister - United Church of Christ  
Kihei, Maui

**Venerable Rev. Steven Costa**

Episcopal Church  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Wally Inglis**

Catholic Worker House  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**Pastor Wayne Ibara**  
Makiki Christian Church  
Honolulu, Oahu

## **Strong Support for SCR13: The Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution**

April 18, 2024

Aloha kākou,

I am testifying in strong and unequivocal support of SCR13, the Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution. This is a critical step in ensuring that this resolution is adopted by Hawai'i State Legislature overall.

In the last several months, Hawai'i residents have demonstrated their strong and unwavering support for Palestine through rallies, sign waving events, teach-ins, movie screenings, and a march attended by several thousand people. We have called our congresspeople and representatives and sent emails tirelessly to ask that a ceasefire is called at both the state and federal level. As it stands currently, hundreds of people have submitted testimony in support of this resolution as it has gone through the legislature so far this session.

In the last six months, we have all witnessed the indiscriminate killing of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza. Recently, we have watched the humanitarian crises continue to spread, as famine and starvation begins to take hold in those who are continuing to survive. Every day that continues without a ceasefire, more men, women and children are being killed as a direct result. As citizens of a country who continues to contribute to this harrowing atrocity, it is imperative that we do everything in our power to stand on the right side of history and call for an end to this genocide. The international community is in support of a ceasefire, as demonstrated by the numerous United Nations votes, that are continually prevented via veto power from the United States alone. Other countries and broader international organizations understand that this must stop, and Hawai'i could stand with them.

Adopting this resolution would align and support the recent county resolution adopted by the Hawai'i County Council Government Operations and External Affairs Committee. Please join them in demonstrating that Hawai'i and its people are in strong support of Palestine, and demand and immediate end to the indiscriminate killing throughout Occupied Palestine. It is critical that you adopt this resolution in order to push our Congressional delegation, President, and federal government to address the harm that they are helping to perpetuate.

Thank you,  
Mariko Quinn

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:12:03 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Hathaway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My testimony is in support of SCR 13 **unamended**.

**From a humanitarian standpoint, the Israeli genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the destruction, leaving it largely uninhabitable, is sickeningly wrong. I object to my hard earned taxes used to aid the onslaught. The US weapons fueling the genocide make us war criminals. Please, as legislators, do all you can to pressure Pres. Biden to hear what the vast majority of people in our country and across the globe are demanding-**

**A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA NOW!!!**

**Thank you, Cynthia Hathaway, Keaau, Hawaii**

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:12:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in **strong support of SCR13** and urge your committee to pass this important resolution *unamended*. Please stand with your constituents to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the brutal violence in Gaza to an end.

As an Indigenous woman and mother, it has been shocking and disheartening to watch the escalating daily cruelty placed on children and families across Gaza. No one deserves that, the trauma those children experience will last their whole lives. To know that my tax-dollars go to this relentless bombing of homes, hospitals, and schools without any choice is absolutely devastating. I am left with nothing with our voices, our urgency, our pleas to legislators to listen.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo for listening, please pass SCR-13 unamended.

Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:15:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
andre hilden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I am a german American citizen. As such I understand how important it is to not look away and to demand that your country is not committing crimes against humanity. We all can see what has happened in Gaza since October right in front of us. It is important for the soul of our nation to do the right thing and to demand an immediate ceasefire. I am urging everyone to pass SCR13



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:17:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victoria Roomet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawaii State legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the US's influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:17:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hollis Romanchik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i should not stand for the killing of the innocent civilians, including children by the Israeli government. Their radical views do not justify the amount of suffering and blood shed we see occurring today. Hawai'i can be an example for the rest of the nation.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:17:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beth Elliott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop the killing of civilians and innocent children in Gaza. Cease fire. Please cease fire.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:17:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members

My name is Georgia Hoopes. I strongly support SCR13 SD1. I'm 72 years old. I don't know where to begin speaking my mind on the conflict between Hamas and the Israeli government. The citizens of Israel and Gaza are suffering. Women and children are caught up in it, to suffer the most. The raging is out of control and must stop.

The set up of this disaster happened before most of us were born. Vengeance isn't a solution. I can't possibly know how each side feels toward the other, but they have crossed the line of decency. We may be powerless to intervene and the least we can do is use our collective voice to express our support for a cease fire. The military solution won't stop until every last person in Gaza is dead. The Israeli government has said Hamas is hiding amongst the citizens. Meaning they won't stop. Humanity and reasoning has left them.

I'm back to where where I started in support of SCR13. Please. Let us take a stand for the immediate cease fire.

Mahalo

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:20:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kira Siebert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**.

I am a teacher that has worked extensively in 5 war-torn countries and with US veterans. Please call for peace. I have seen the evils of war and genocide. Please stop this now. Be the voice of reason and heart.

A permanent and immediate ceasefire is the first step toward peace and healing. Violence is a failure of diplomacy. Every day we won't have peace, every day the US supports ungodly violence and destruction, puts US livelihood and democracy at risk. The failure of the US to lead toward peace is beyond disappointing and sickening.

Hawaii can do better. Hawaii can show the world that we believe that violence doesn't work. Sadly, the State Department and the vast majority of the Congress are so beholden to a rogue state that they are too weak to engage logical minds and uncorrupted hearts. To offer "unwavering support" of violence and destruction at genocidal proportions is inhumane, irresponsible, and unbelievable dangerous. Sickening.

How do you all not see how inhumane and dangerous this is? How do you allow billions to go to Israel (who has universal healthcare and free higher education) while most of us here in Hawaii struggle daily? Why would you continue to support and pay for violence and destruction?

Please follow Palestinian journalists. Please help educate your colleagues and constituents on the true history (say 1915 onward) of Palestine, Israel, genocide, and how the UN functions. The US should be leading toward peace. The world wants peace. Do you not hear the world calling for peace?

Let Hawaii be a leader in peace and healing. Let Hawaii be a small yet mighty voice that lights the way toward diplomacy without violence.

Mahalo for your time and energy.

Kira



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:21:24 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emi Jenkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Many people ask "what would I do if the government that I live under was conducting a genocide like Nazi Germany?". The answer is whatever you are doing right now. The scale of suffering and death in Gaza is unfathomable. Every day, we receive reports of mass killings of women and children, bombings of schools and hospitals, looting and theft of Palestinian possessions and houses, and countless other horrors. Every day the Hawaii state legislature enables and even encourages this genocide is another day that it loses legitimacy in the eye of the public who doesn't want to see other colonized people bombed and killed for profit and land. A resolution against the genocide is the first step to prevent further death and destruction.

## In Support\_SCR13 Testimony

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, Culture, Arts and International Committee,

Mahalo for your time this morning. I am testifying in support of passing Senate Resolution 13 (SCR13) without reservations.

I would like to take my time to archive and share the words of four Palestinian people.

An artist said, "I am suffocating. [and] I want to breathe. I want to breathe."

Poets concurred, with gentle hands they wrote "if I must die, you must live," for "knives might eat what remains of my ribs, [and] machines might smash what remains of stones, but life is coming, for that is its way..."

Hearing these words, through displacement and hunger, a little girl responds. "I will remain steadfast on my land until the last blood drop in my soul, until my last breath, until I lose my breath getting suffocated and die. Then I will be buried in my land, buried under the house plants. I want to be planted in my land. "

The artist? Fathi Ghaben, renowned painter and educator; killed at seventy-seven due to lack of access to medical care.

The poets? Refaat Alareer and Saleem Al Naffar; writers, and deeply beloved mentors, killed with their families within 24 hours of each other from bombs that left both their homes rubble.

The displaced Palestinian girl? Her fate is unknown to me. She said these words in December.

These stories from the people of Gaza capture the devastating loss of culture, and the beautiful, and resistant culture still under siege at this very moment.

Pass this resolution without reservations. Tell the Biden Administration, members of Congress, and the international community this legislature and her people urge an immediate and permanent ceasefire. Give life the opportunity to return.

Mahalo for your time,

"Right will speak slowly, so do not delay the dream, nor hurry time."

Free Palestine. Free Hawaii



Fathi Ghaben (link:

<https://www.artforum.com/news/fathi-ghaben-dead-at-77-550410/> )

Refaat Alareer

(link:<https://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/blog/poetry/bilingual-poem-gaza-refaat-alareer>)

Saleem Al Naffar (link:

<https://rebelvoice.blog/2022/01/05/palestinian-poet-gives-heart-to-his-people/> )

Palestinian girl 15. Dec. 2023 Nuha Palestinian girl (link:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@devotedly.yours/video/7312853388343954731> )

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:24:09 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
AUSTIN James Namakaehukai KAILI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:29:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Wittman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Normally in even the worst circumstances of warfare, noncombatants can at least try to evacuate the country, or at least the war zone, to seek safety. Gaza's have nowhere safe to run too. It is up to the entire world to speak out against continued attacks in Gaza while civilians are present. This is genocide! The world is watching. Please let our country be on the humane side of this conflict, and stop enabling Israel to continue attacks on civilians.

thank you, Brian Wittman

Paia, Maui

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:29:44 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

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committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Aloha pumehana kākou,

My name is Mahina Kaomea. I am writing today to the Culture, Arts, and International Affairs Committee in strong and unequivocal support of SCR 13, urging the President of the United States and members of Hawai‘i’s congressional delegation to support an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. I am deeply grateful for your time and sincere consideration.

As a young Native Hawaiian, I write this testimony because the parallels in our histories, including genocide, ecocide, and ongoing illegal occupation, are impossible to ignore. I write because when my community was fighting to protect our sacred Maunakea and the vital water resources beneath it from desecration, Palestinian activists literally flew across the world to stand with us.

So much of our language around occupation and liberation, our strategies for nonviolent direct action, and our strength to fiercely stand and defend the places that birthed us and which give us life, comes directly from Palestinian activists and for that I can never repay my gratitude.

I write in support of an immediate and permanent ceasefire today because of the ways our Palestinian cousins stood with us, because the solidarities we have cultivated demand I stand with them, too. I write because Indigenous peoples hold in our DNA the ancestral memory of genocide, the pain of being ripped from our land, and that is a reality that our Palestinian relatives are living today. But they are resisting. They are holding tight to their land and refusing to leave.

Their resistance reminds me that decolonization is possible. It is possible, and I believe firmly that decolonization cannot happen fully in my own home unless I stand for decolonization everywhere, including occupied Palestine. When we say land back, we mean from the mountains to the ocean, from the river to the sea.

I am deeply inspired by the diverse group of activists and organizers who have mobilized our community to demand justice for the people of Palestine, and an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. My friends and I have attended sign-wavings, rallies, and speeches. We have organized at the university, putting together political trainings and holding space for vibrant discussion. We have called representatives at all levels of government for days on end.

Now we write asking that you please consider this resolution, which so many of us have been fighting to even be heard in the senate at all. As you do, I hope you realize that all of our liberations are connected. No one is free until Palestine is free.

Me ke aloha,  
Mahinapoepoehua Priya Kaomea

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:31:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Armstrong	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

I am a seasoned humanitarian aid worker, and the dire humanitarian situation we are witnessing in Gaza is a collective failure of humanity.

The cost of damage to critical infrastructure in Gaza is estimated at around \$18.5 billion according to a new report released today by the World Bank and the United Nations. More than half the population of Gaza is on the brink of famine and the entire population is experiencing acute food insecurity and malnutrition. Over a million people are without homes and 75% of the population is displaced. Catastrophic cumulative impacts on physical and mental health have hit women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities the hardest, with the youngest children anticipated to be facing life-long consequences to their development. With 84% of health facilities damaged or destroyed, and a lack of electricity and water to operate remaining facilities, the population has minimal access to health care, medicine, or life-saving treatments. The water and sanitation system has nearly collapsed, delivering less than 5% of its previous output, with people dependent on limited water rations for survival. The education system has collapsed, with 100% of children out of school.

The United States and its allies must abide by international humanitarian law, and Israel has failed to meet the basic protections and rights afforded to civilians under international humanitarian law. Humanitarian access is being impeded, and more than 200 humanitarian workers have been killed. There must be an immediate and long-lasting humanitarian ceasefire.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:35:48 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this matter,

Lisa Parker

Kapaa, HI

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:38:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This began with a form letter that mentioned some statistics, which got me looking into other numbers, some of which I now want to share with you (references at the end):

-The majority of buildings in Gaza, including water and electrical utility plants, transportation and communications infrastructure, some of the world’s oldest and most significant churches and mosques, and over 70% of homes — an act of domicile — have been severely damaged or destroyed; meanwhile, more events are popping up across the US advertising illegal real estate sales in Gaza and the Occupied Territories.[1][2][3][4][5]

-According to a UNICEF article posted March 15, 2024, 1 in 3 children under 2 years of age in northern Gaza suffer from acute malnutrition. “At least 23 children in Northern Gaza Strip have reportedly died from malnutrition and dehydration in recent weeks, adding to the mounting toll of children killed in the Strip in this current conflict – about 13,450 reported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health.” That number has since risen and will likely grow quickly in the days and weeks to come.[6][7]

-All 2.3+ million people in the Gaza Strip are facing acute food insecurity, with a devastating 677,000+ of them actively dying of hunger at this very moment. From Human Rights Watch, “A United Nations-coordinated partnership of 15 international organizations and UN agencies investigating the hunger crisis in Gaza reported on March 18, 2024, that ‘all evidence points towards a major acceleration of death and malnutrition.’ The partnership said that in northern Gaza, where 70 percent of the population is estimated to be experiencing catastrophic hunger, famine could occur anytime between mid-March and May.”[7][8]

Now the form letter:

It's been 6 months since Israel launched its catastrophic assault on Gaza. More than 33,000 Gazans are dead. Another 75,000+ have been wounded, and another 7,000+ are still missing and presumed dead.

This genocide in Gaza is the deadliest in the 21st century in terms of its pace. In only the first 100 days, 1 out of every 100 Gazans was murdered, including 1 out of every 85 children in Gaza. That was months ago. Things have only gotten worse.

The U.S. continues to fund and arm Israel, while utterly shattering the perception that any kind of “rules-based” international order exists. A permanent ceasefire is a necessary first step to save more innocent lives from being extinguished.

The public has made it abundantly clear that we support the Hawai‘i Ceasefire Resolution. Please ensure that SCR13 is passed unamended.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

96816

—

[1] <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/gaza-destruction-bombing-israel-aa528542>

[2] <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68006607.amp>

[3] <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2023/12/31/israeli-bombardment-destroyed-over-70-of-gaza-homes-media-office>

[4] <https://theconversation.com/does-the-destruction-of-homes-in-gaza-constitute-genocide-225523>

[5] <https://therealnews.com/illegal-real-estate-sales-of-palestinian-land-are-happening-around-the-us>

[6] <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/acute-malnutrition-has-doubled-one-month-north-gaza-strip-unicef#:~:text=NEW%20YORK%2C%2015%20MARCH%202024,15.6%20per%20cent%20in%20January.>

[7] <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/04/09/gaza-israels-imposed-starvation-deadly-children>

[8] <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/gaza-hunger-figures-worst-record-says-oxfam#>

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:39:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emerson Goo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13, and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

As a planner and landscape designer in Honolulu, the occupation of Palestine has profoundly shaped my way of thinking about the environment and how to shape it. The severe restrictions placed on Palestinian mobility, the siege and blockade which limits economic and urban development in Gaza and keeps it dependent on foreign aid, the use of the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism to limit how Palestinians in Gaza can rebuild after Israeli weapons destroy their homes, the violence of the maintenance of Israeli-imposed walls and borders which scar Palestinian agricultural and heritage landscapes, the demonization of the tunnels which transgress these borders and upset the colonial balance of power - all of these are policies and structures of occupation, apartheid, and spatial domination which are absolutely antithetical to anything remotely resembling just, equitable planning and the development of spaces where people can thrive without fear of being killed or persecuted by a racist state. It must end, and the US must work to end it and accept responsibility for abetting this genocide. This resolution would further signal that the people of Hawai'i are committed to doing so.

Sincerely, and in solidarity with Palestinians,

Emerson Goo

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:40:07 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Koohan Paik-Mander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In the Jewish household where I was raised, it was drilled into us that the horrors of the Holocaust must never be repeated. "Never Again!" we swore to ourselves and to God.

And yet here we are now, watching another holocaust unfold, this time in Gaza. WE CANNOT STAND BY AND ALLOW THESE ATROCITIES TO CONTINUE!

Stop funding Israel's genocide. Cease Fire Now!

Sincerely,

Koohan Paik-Mander

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:40:17 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Yoro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam and members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution UNAMENDED. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel and bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

I am following what is happening in Gaza:

- the 400+ Palestinian people massacred by the Israeli military at the Al-Shifa Hospital,
- the Palestinian refugees who Israel is deliberately starving as they shelter in overcrowded tents,
- the injured Palestinian children who were forced to get amputations without anesthesia,
- the Palestinian families shot dead by Israeli snipers as they flee hospitals, and
- the Palestinian boys and men stripped naked in the cold and severely tortured by Israeli soldiers in concentration camps.

There have been an untold number of mass graves, field executions, and other horrific war crimes, most of which we do not even know yet due to Israel’s telecommunications blackout. And now, Israel is threatening a full-scale ground invasion in Rafah to slaughter or forcibly remove the 1.5 million Palestinians sheltering there—directly against the International Court of Justice’s orders.

It’s undeniable that this is a genocide. A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water, and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished if the violence continues.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:40:30 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Schmitt	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am urging the President of the United States to cease fire in Gaza~Stop killing people now.  
Thus far No Farther!!!

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:40:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ronald Fujiyoshi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of the Culture, Arts & International Affairs Committee,

Please pass the Hawai`i Ceasefire Resolution (SCR13) unamended! I am a retired Christian missionary and pastor of a small Hawaiian church. I am NOT anti-semitic. I am a student of Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was hanged by the Nazis in Germany just before World War II ended in his opposition to the Nazi regime, especially of its killing of the Jewish people.

I am horrified at the genocidal killing of innocent Paletinians in Gaza that is still occurring. I honor the your people, including young Jewish people who have joined in demonstrations all over the USA and here in Hawai`i in support of a ceasefire in Gaza. Please allow the full Hawaii legislature to clearly take a stand on this issue. I hope they will join other cities, like the city of Chicago, to vote for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Mahalo for this opportunity to speak in strong support of this resolution.

Ronald S. Fujiyoshi

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:41:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christina Sanchez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended.

This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawaii State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

Over 33,000 innocent people have been killed in 6 months. 14,000 of that are keiki. Our children are dying by bombs and are being starved to death. That is more than any world conflict, according to UNICEF. We as your constituents are pleading for you to stand for love and to put in an end to this violence and illegal occupation.

Enough innocent lives have been lost. This violence is not keeping anyone safe, and is not the aloha way. Please allow Hawaii and the people stand on the right side of history to save lives by a permanent ceasefire.

Mahalo nui,

Christina

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:41:50 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laila Popata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Laila Popata. I have worked as a public school teacher on Maui for 20 years. I have dedicated my life to helping children. I believe as James Baldwin said, "The children are always ours, every single one of them, all over the globe; and I am beginning to suspect that whoever is incapable of recognizing this may be incapable of morality." I am urging members of this committee to act morally and adopt a ceasefire resolution.

As the children of Maui are mine to shepard, the children of Gaza are ours to protect. According to [recent news](#) more than 13,800 children have been killed since Oct. 7th. The world cannot remain silent while these atrocities continue. This is why I am urging our state legislature to adopt a ceasefire resolution.

While the International Court of Justice has ruled that Israel's actions in Gaza since October 7, 2023 likely constitute a genocide [ICJ, 2024](#), and the [U.N. Security Council](#) passed a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza on March 25, our politicians continue to ignore the demands of the people.

Please listen to the people of Hawaii, who do not support this genocide in Gaza. Please support a ceasefire resolution so that Hawaii can be the first state to stand up for the children of Gaza. If we want stability in the Middle East, the first place to begin is with a permanent and immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Mahalo for you time.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:43:30 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

**I am testifying in strong support of SCR13** and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

**This is a chance for us to show the US that Hawai‘i stands on the side of peace and justice. Please listen to your constituents, who overwhelmingly support this measure.**

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:43:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Abbey Seitz	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha members of the CAI committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel’s system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:45:12 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Goodwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly urge you to pass SCR 13 without amendments. Aloha Spirit is canonized in Hawai`i Revised Statutes (5-7.5). It is a universal declaration and we are compelled to speak out against the wanton killing and destruction in Gaza.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:45:17 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barun Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:49:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:51:54 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

My name is Joëll Edwards, recently elected Chair of the Kaua'i Democratic Party. We recently passed a resolution at the Kaua'i Democratic Convention supporting a ceasefire and I am now personally testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in

Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:52:36 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikhil Khurana	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Hello Committee Members,

I am in strong support of SCR13 to be passed immediately and unamended. What the resolution is asking for is a CEASEFIRE, an end to the killing of over 32,000+ Palestinians. What is happening is simple: our representatives Congress, the senate, the house, Ed Case, President Biden and the federal government have insisted on sending military aid, weapons and given their unequivocal support to the Israeli Army to continue the bombing of Gaza. This includes funding the killinh of civilians: largely women and children, and the bombing of hospitals, schools, refugee camps and hundreds of other atrocities and war crimes. Meanwhile the American Public has largely supported a CEASEFIRE for months now. A poll showing 66% of all people in the US supporting a CEASEFIRE has been around for months now. And yet the US has vetoed a ceasefire resolution in the UN Security council twice, only recently allowing it to go through.

This is a question of humanity and democracy, I want the US to stop aiding and abetting the bombing of children, men and women in gaza. The majority of people in Hawai'i and the US want the same. Will you, our representatives support peace and the voices of the public you represent? You MUST, because as is evidenced by the abundance of testimonials throughout this process, this is the will of the people who you work for.

Sincerely,

Nikhil Khurana

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:54:11 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Camille Monson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Members of the Committee,**

**I am testifying in strong support of SCR13. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice for peace and the end of violence.**

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:54:22 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Makana Hicks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in **strong support** of this resolution.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza cannot be allowed to continue. Israel continues to reveal itself to be a dangerous and purely self interested partner. Their attack on the Iranian embassy and the subsequent danger of escalation that posed show their reckless disregard for the US's long suffering assistance. Nothing is gained from supporting Israel beyond campaign donations. It is unconscionable that we continue to support a war who's primary effect is not to enhance Israeli security but to cause man-made famine and plague all while destabilize an entire region.

## ONE WORD: GUERNICA

The German airforce systematically bombed the Basque town of Guernica in 1937 as part of their support for the uprising of the Fascist general, Francisco Franco, in the Spanish Civil War. A British journalist visited the town the next day and told the world. Pablo Picasso read an account and produced this famous painting to share the horrors of the war.



Guernica, 1937 by Pablo Picasso

Here is a photo from Guernica. Photos from Gaza today look very similar.



A photo of Guernica after the bombing, 1937

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:56:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**I have been testifying for years. Never have I supported legislation more strongly than SCR13/Ceasefire ~ with NO Amendments.**

**I have been forced to finance the murder of millions of innocent people around the world for nearly my entire life and I'm damn sick of it.**

**Multi-trillions have been spent on this despicable evil that is bankrupting us and it's way past time to say so.**

**I hope our leadership will stand up and prove that ALOHA is more than just a cheesy marketing ploy.**



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:58:15 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Spear	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

In Hawai'i, we intimately understand the brutality of American militarism and occupation. Our kuleana to speak out in condemnation of American support and facilitation of genocide is thus not only a moral obligation but a personal one as well. The people of Hawai'i urge you to stand on the right side of history and demand accountability.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:59:03 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:59:54 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katie Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need a ceasefire immediately. We are complicit in genocide. As the people of Hawaii, we cannot watch as another group faces extinction.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:00:44 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SCR 13 to request President Biden to support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:01:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kekoa Kealoha	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

‘Ano‘ai ke aloha kākou,

My name is Kekoa Kealoha and I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of resolution SCR13 demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. I am deeply concerned about the crisis that has escalated to its current dire circumstances because we—Hawaiian and American taxpayers—are actively contributing to it.

Israeli citizens are rightfully angry about the attack that happened on October 7th; no life lost should ever be forgotten. The unfolding circumstances after that date, however, demonstrate Israel’s uncompromising and ongoing commitment to crimes against humanity. Palestinians have lived under the oppressive hand of Israeli apartheid since the creation of Israel. They have been subjugated to egregious and cruel treatment. They have been the victims of displacement, starvation, and terror. Prior to October 7th, Palestinians were further subjected to mass death and displacement at the hands of Israel’s government, funded by US taxpayers. Our tax dollars have contributed to the deaths of almost 34,000 Palestinians.

I remember 9/11 clearly. I was a junior in high school when it happened, and I remember how easily I and those around me were convinced that invading Afghanistan was the correct response to such a horrific attack. Now, these two decades later, I realize that I was blinded by my fear, my pain, and my desire to “get even.” I didn’t think about the lives lost in retaliation. In the 20+ years since 9/11, I can reflect understanding that we should’ve done better. Two wrongs don’t make a right. Killing more people doesn’t bring back the people we love and miss.

Unfortunately, in times of war, people often don’t listen to reason. I have tried to contact our federal delegation about this issue, none of them replied with a real response. I have taken the time to thoughtfully present my perspective and, in return, got cookie-cutter responses from each of them. I have used many avenues to elevate voices of reason that demand a ceasefire, but they

are frequently met with the worst kind of opposition. More and more, our speech is frequently stifled to favor the narrative of a nation that is committing a genocide against the Palestinian people. With diminishing avenues of recourse, I come to testify today because we need your help to elevate this call for a ceasefire.

Our values here in Hawai‘i demand that we call for peace. Supporting Israel’s war on Palestinian civilians does not align with Hawaiian values. Please help us raise a voice for peace by supporting this resolution, demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Mahalo piha.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:01:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Trujillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for accepting this testimony in SUPPORT of SCR13

Please allow the Spirit of Aloha to guide you and your colleagues to PASS SCR13 and join the growing chorus of voices calling for peace and justice for the many tribes of Judah and the innocent inhabitants of Gaza, the West Bank and throughout Palestine, Israel and for their neighbors to the east, south and north.

A peaceful resolution to this recent episode is only possible through a permanent ceasefire. Please PASS SCR13 and join the movement to engage with aloha and advocate a peaceful and diplomatic solution to stop the slaughter of innocent residents of the region.

Mahalo again for receiving and considering this testimony in support of PASSING SCR13. Let the Aloha Spirit help guide all parties involved in this decision making process and may peace prevail from Hanalei to Hebron, from mauka to makai and to all inhabitants therein.

With respect and aloha,

James G Trujillo  
POBox 33  
Kapa'a, HI

96746



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:05:09 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jordan Kapono Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jordan Kapono Nakamura and I'm a kama'aina worker. 6 months and 75 years into a brutal occupation with genocidal intent of Palestine, perpetrated by the zionist entity of the settler ethnostate of Israel and funded heavily and made possible by U.S. military support and funding, Hawai'i is overdue for a strong response against this slaughter. This genocide obviously directly opposes the values I have come to not only associate with our community here, but also with basic humanity. Whatever reasons elected officials have for upholding the rotting carcasses of a mythic both-sidesism, obscuring direct eye-witness footage and reportage of unprecedented volume and clarity from the ground in real time from Palestine, claiming moral complexity when imperialist violence has almost never been more clear in history, or borrowing from the decades old AIPAC approved propagandist playbook justifying a regime that has violated every facet of International law including the Geneva convention and ICJ, none of those reasons excuse the continued co-signing in any form of what will go down as one of the greatest atrocities in human history. As a student of history who has studied harrowing documentation of genocides and wars throughout world history, I report with grave and traumatized disbelief that all of the worst things I have seen have been witnessed in the last 6 months since the U.S. has allowed Israel to unleash its deputized settler army and advanced weapons pipeline to massacre Palestinians daily. What the U.S. is not just politically supporting but bankrolling to the tune of numerous billions of dollars in funding each year, is textbook genocide with repeated stated intent, having been built on years of allowing Israel to brutalize Palestinians in a fully illegal seige and occupation where kidnapping children and holding them in prisons without fair trial often accompanied by torture and indefinite disappearance has become commonplace. Where people die in routine checkpoints a mile from their own homes waiting for an arbitrary screening process to clear an endless line of Palestinians waiting to be judged for the crime of existing in their native land during the era of occupation. Where the amount of food and water allotted into the Gaza strip was the lowest amount allowed before categorical starvation for years prior to 2020, when the UN declared Gaza to be "unlivable." Hawai'i sends 13 million dollars of taxpayer funding to uphold this horror each year, money that should go to anything else, namely helping locals like Lahaina residents displaced from wildfire disaster. As a Japanese American living in these islands, I'd be remiss not to remind that Pearl Harbor would never have happened if Hawai'i were not categorically a military territory of the U.S. It is therefore not out of the question to call it a matter of safety that as Biden continues to provide reason and means to escalate this needless regional war and occupation that most of the world is vehemently against, Hawai'i should go on record as being against it as well, given we remain a massive U.S. military outpost, against the will of many locals no less. I'm not sure what more needs to be said. Please find your kuleana and do the right thing, however late, and declare that the people of Hawai'i

demand a ceasefire as a first step in taking a stance toward ending this brutality, and pass SCR13. Mahalo.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:07:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Warech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Tam, Vice-chair Martinez, and esteemed members of the CAI Committee,

I am writing today in **STRONG SUPPORT to pass SCR 13 UNAMENDED.**

I am here as a Jewish member of the Hawai'i community who stands staunchly against Israel's almost 200 day genocidal assault against Palestinians. The need for an immediate and permanent ceasefire is DIRE and you absolutely do have the power to help stop this through this resolution today. And you have a responsibility to your constituents to heed their calls in their overwhelming support for this measure and for representing their stance to the world that Hawai'i is staunchly against this genocide and against Zionist violence that is currently being carried out by Israel backed by US money and weapons.

My family came to the US in the 1910s and 1920s, feeling pogroms and mass massacres of Eastern Europe at the time. In 1919, 100,000 Jews were killed in Russia and Poland and we are dangerously on track to hitting that same number when we get to the year mark of this massacre. But really we are likely to hit MILLIONS if aid is not let in ASAP which can only happen in the mass amounts needed with a permanent and immediate ceasefire.

Today, millions are at risk of starvation and over a million is in high danger as Israel presses on toward a ground invasion of Rafah despite the US warning against. Israel has made it abundantly clear that it will not stop unless it is made to stop and the US is the only one with that power by every state and then all congressional delegates calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and the US refusing to provide weapons or money and enact sanctions if Israel does not comply.

**THIS MOMENT NEEDS ALL OF US. IT NEEDS YOU. WE BELIEVE YOU CAN DO THIS AND SAVE SO MANY LIVES IF YOU JUST HAVE THE COURAGE TO CHOOSE HUMAN LIFE OVER YOUR FEAR OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR POLITICAL CAREER.** How can you choose anything other than holding all human life as sacred?

What we are asking for is the **bare minimum: a permanent immediate ceasefire.** We want the atrocities to end. America supplies Israel with the weapons it needs to keep fueling its crimes, and it is for that reason that American representatives must listen to their constituents' pleas, stand up, and say no more.

As your Jewish constituents we are begging you to affirm what we know: genocide cannot be allowed to go unchecked by the international community. For all of our sakes we must reaffirm the value of all human life. We must call for ceasefire.

We hope that you heard our voices on Wednesday when we sang to you from the rotunda. We stand together, we pray together, and we call for a ceasefire together. We call for justice for the over 14,000 children killed together. Please join us. The time for peace is now.

Every single day our country fails to demand a permanent immediate ceasefire, more blood is on all of our hands. This resolution is far from symbolic, it is Hawai'i taking a stance on behalf of the overwhelming majority of constituents who want a ceasefire and making it clear to the world that we say no to genocide and that our congressional delegation must start listening to the will of the people.

One of the greatest horrors of the holocaust is that the world sat by and watched as it happened. The trauma of the holocaust was then weaponized into 75 years of trauma for Palestinians through Zionism. The U.S.'s unwavering support of Israel has culminated in this horrifying moment where another systematic extermination of a peoples is taking place as we speak. It is morally unjustifiable to allow this to continue and today the power to take a significant step toward stopping it lies in your hands.

We are calling on you as our elected officials to heed our calls, to heed the majority of your constituents who support a ceasefire. The people have been speaking for almost 200 days through phone calls, letter writing, press conferences, rallies, marches and ceasefire resolutions being passed by city councils and the democratic party of Hawai'i.

It is completely unacceptable that every single one of our federal congress people have not called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, blatantly ignoring the will of their constituents. Today, we ask you to rectify this, to codify the overwhelming support for a permanent ceasefire through this resolution.

We are asking you to look long and hard in the mirror and in this time of moral reckoning, choose your humanity over the political fearmongering meant to keep unprecedented amounts of power in Israel's hands. Gaza and its people are being destroyed due to the cowardice of so many elected officials to act. Due to getting campaign money from AIPAC. Due to decades of lobbying to make Israel a bipartisan untouchable issue at the expense of Palestinians lives, livelihoods, futures, dreams.

We are calling on you to honor the over 34,000 human beings who have been murdered, to honor the over 14,000 children who have been killed by Israeli airstrikes, ground operations and starvation, and to honor the entire lines of families who have been physically wiped out by voting yes today. As Jews, we invite you to stand with us in the Jewish values of shalom and tikkun olam, to fight for a just world by repairing it, to be in right relationship by holding all life as inherently sacred. WE BELIEVE IN YOU TO DO THE RIGHT THING. Thank you.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:07:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa J Bowman	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Please uphold our kuleana to Gaza and vote in support of SCR13

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:10:05 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anyssa Keliikipi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring violence in Gaza to an end.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:12:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mariko Whitenack	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou!

My name is Mariko Whitenack and I am a resident of Kaimukī. I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. My Palestinian friends and their families deserve to live in peace on their lands, deserve access to fresh water and food, deserve access to shelter. Without a permanent ceasefire, even these basic human rights are denied to them by Israel's ongoing assault on Palestinian lives and lands.

Your support is critical to ensuring the final, official adoption of SCR13 by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of Israel's violence in Gaza, the West Bank, and the wider region has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by

dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo nui for your consideration and this opportunity to offer testimony.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:14:55 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Pomaikaʻi Hennessey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawaiʻi State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel and to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

As a Native Hawaiian, this is especially important to me that we end the violence against another Indigenous people on their Indigenous land.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:19:45 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nathan Palmore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:20:24 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bruce Mirken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I write strong support of SCR13 and urge you to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

This ongoing slaughter has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip facing imminent starvation. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

Enough.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

It is time for the U.S. to stand for peace, and time for Hawaii to make its voice heard, loudly and strongly.

Please pass SCR 13 now, unamended.

Mahalo,

Bruce Mirken

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:26:16 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

Thank you for giving this resolution the opportunity to be heard. The public has pushed hard for this because IT MATTERS what we do in the face of an ongoing genocide. Now that this resolution is before you, I urge you to use your institutional power to represent your constituents and PASS SCR13 unamended as it is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with us – with humanity – to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to end the violence in Gaza.

The attack on October 7th did not happen in a vacuum, but since then, in just a little over six months, the number of civilians killed by Israel has soared. Over 30,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. Thousands more have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements. Israel has wiped out people of every age, entire families, displaced thousands, destroyed ways of life, demolished civilization, used starvation as a weapon, used Palestinians' compassion and desperation against them (luring them outside with recorded screams just to kill them). None of this could ever be justified and surely must not be excused nor encouraged.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards. A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians, is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Witnessing some of the things that people in Gaza have been suffering through has been heartbreaking and devastating, but almost equally disturbing is watching so many people fall for propaganda, fail to consider other perspectives, and attempt to justify the terror Israel is inflicting

on Palestinians – or just completely ignore what is happening. I have never seen such denial of truth that seems so obvious.

Though Gaza is far away and this issue may seem beyond us here in Hawai‘i, we must not separate ourselves from what is happening – especially when our tax dollars are being used to fund the genocide and people are being punished for speaking up in favor of life. Our police and security units are trained by Israeli forces. We allow the Israeli military to train in our waters (RIMPAC). New weapons and deadly technology are being used on Palestinians now but could be used on any of us next. This has everything to do with us. We can try to disconnect and distance ourselves, but we are all implicated. We don’t have to be complicit.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” so it is in our best interest to end injustice whenever and wherever it is happening. Please do not stand in the way of the passing of this resolution, but rather stand FOR life, humanity, peace, justice, and give every opportunity for Palestinians to live. Please vote yes on SCR13!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kristen Young  
Lower Punchbowl



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:26:16 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholas Chagnon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Hawaii Legislature,

I am urging you to support this resolution. Of course, the State of Hawaii does not itself hold the power to force a ceasefire in Gaza. However, this is a time when all people of conscience must act to do whatever we can to encourage such a course of action. There's no disputing the rampant war crimes that are being committed by Israeli forces in Gaza right now. It's also indisputable that they are doing this in partnership with the Biden administration. Yet, the administration continues to lie and dissemble, trying to convince us that they do not have the power to stop this. Anyone with two brain cells knows that they do. Historical examples of US presidents reigning in Israel's violent excesses abound. Even Ronald Reagan stopped the bombing of Lebanon.

Act now. Urge President Biden to stop his criminal partnership in genocide and redeem himself by forcing an end to the slaughter. Please, the innocent people of Gaza are dying by the hundreds every day. We in the US are privileged to have the freedoms we possess. We **MUST** use them in pursuit of moral ends. End the siege of Gaza!

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Chagnon

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:28:59 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Peggy Kwi-Suk Hong	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

As residents of Hawai'i we must lend our voice to the international outcry against the unspeakably brutal genocide in Gaza. We must set an example for generations to come and land on the right side of history. We must connect the dots between the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom, and the colonization of Palestine, and recognize that we share a common history.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Our voices together are strong. We must speak with one voice, CEASEFIRE NOW.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:31:18 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Taijeron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Lauren Taijeron. I am currently in a masters program at UH Mānoa and I ask that you support SCR13. While the media, universities, our own representatives and various other public representation outlets have tried to confuse the public, people all around the world have been doing everything within their power to stop what is clearly a genocide. Now, it is your turn. I ask that you support SCR13 as your first step. Billions of US tax dollars are being utilized to destroy churches, libraries, hospitals, schools, playgrounds and everywhere Palestinians have been directed to go for safety they have been met with deadly weapons such as airstrikes and those that are carried by the Israeli army soldiers themselves. Please help put an end to this genocide.

Please support SCR13 and continue to take further steps towards ending this genocide and the rightful return of Palestinians to their own land.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:32:08 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jodi Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the CAI Committee,

Like many others, I have been watching videos of the atrocities committed to the Palestinian people with shock, horror, and despair. Hawai'i is a small state, but our collective voice can send a clear message to our congressional delegation and to the world. I strongly support SCR13 and urge our legislators to call for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Mahalo,

Jodi Robinson

Nu'uuanu, O'ahu, HI

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:33:37 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vivien Lee and Charlie Reppun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

War is not healthy for humans or the Earth. Violence is NOT the way to solve problems. We, as citizens of the United States, cannot stand by silently as our country sends billions of dollars to Israel. Dollars which end up causing immense human suffering. Dollars which have helped to destroy homes, schools, hospitals and infrastructure. The war's effect on Palestinian men, women and children is inhumane. We, and you, must raise our voices to object!

We are testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained

in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

You must act now. Do not be a bystander.

sincerely,

Vivien Lee and Charles F. Reppun

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:34:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin Faccenda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. The ongoing war in gaza is costing a tremendous amount of lives of women and children who are entirely innocent. A ceasefire is the only humanitarian option

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:43:15 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zoe Malia Ozoa Loos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to all our government officials who have taken the time to read my testimony, along with countless others.

I am writing today, testifying in strong support of SCR13, and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federally elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

I know what Hamas did was awful, simply unelectable, and I don't have time or, quite honestly, the knowledge to go into any significant details with the decades of conflict in the Middle East, but that's actually not important right now.

The conflict and the road to peace will be long and hard and something I can't quite comprehend, but what matters right now is stopping the horrendous human rights violations that are happening to the people of Gaza. The people who have to deal with the retaliation of an entire country due to the actions of a radical few. It is a human rights violation to have this much retaliation and for an entire nation to experience this type of retaliation.

Reading all this testimony probably isn't fun, so if you haven't seen it already, John Oliver has a great episode about the Israel and Palestine conflict on this HBO Max series. It sums up the conflict in a way that's more manageable to comprehend--and a ceasefire is the first step to recovery.

Please, let us be a state at the forefront of meaningful action, like we have done time and time again.

Mahalo

<3



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:48:35 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David ashe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is David Ashe and I strongly support the passing of SCR13 unamended. As a U.S. veteran I am deeply concerned about the genocide currently unfolding in Palestine. Stand with your constituents, do the right thing and support this ceasefire resolution. Mahalo

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:49:00 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joel Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, this testimony is in support of the bill SCR13 SDI. I would urge you to please pass this resolution and move it forward to a vote. Do not let something so important die in committee! The language in the bill simply urges people in power towards peace - which is the exact message that needs to be sent to the world right now. Hawaii should stand for peace and against war and further destruction.

Continued status quo politics by the Democrats at this time is leading us closer and closer to a global conflict which will impact Hawaii directly. We must fight back against this trend and push in the opposite direction towards peace. War will not help the citizens of Hawaii and continuing to support this war effort by Israel is not in the best interests of us.

I beg you to please use your position of power to be a champion of peace.

Mahalo,

Joel Johnson

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:49:33 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linnea Heu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today in support of SCR13, a resolution which urges the President of the United States and members of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

With over 30,000 people killed and more than twice as many injured, over 2 million people without adequate food, water, access to medical care, or even basic hygienic products; calling for a ceasefire is honestly, the very least we can do. To stand by as this continues, is to be complicit in the genocide of the Palenstinian people. Every day we wait, there are more lives being lost, and still more damaged irreparably by the the trauma of this ongoing horror.

Please pass this resolution.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:49:43 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ceasefire now.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:52:22 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Foley Pfalzgraf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

I have borne witness in horror these past few months as U.S. support for the Israel Defense Forces has resulted in death and destruction which will reverberate for generations. If we claim to support democracy, good governance, human rights, freedom, and equality, we must not continue to contribute to the devastating campaign and genocide unfolding in Gaza.

Please pass SCR 113 unamended to reflect our collective voices as constituents calling for a ceasefire.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:53:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastacia Narrajos	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

**My name is Anastacia Narrajos. I'm sure you are receiving many of these written testimonies. I am adding a personal note here to proceed the below copy and paste. I support the organizers who took time to type the following. I hope you do not receive this as impersonal, but instead as a testimony of another voice standing behind the people who are urging you to pass a resolution to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. I am a Filipino Jew relatively new to this island. Witnessing the intersection between Hawaiian liberation, and the diversity in identity leading these conversations and direct actions, have inspired me to continue using my voice and body to stand with Palestine in this important moment in history. I urge you to do the same.**

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo nui,

Ana

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:54:17 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

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A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes



committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:56:40 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Chimera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives Adrian K. Tam and Rose Martinez,

I am writing in support of this resolution calling for an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza to de-escalate the murder of tens of thousands of civilians and allow for humanitarian aid to be delivered to people who are perishing there. Daily we are witnessing the starvation, death, maiming and annihilation of the civilian population in Palestine that defies imagination. Anything other than a full throated condemnation of this ceaseless cruelty and a withdraw of US supplied weaponry by which Israel is ethnically cleansing Palestine is insufficient. The hour is so very late to correct our political failings--but time is not over for those who remain. If not now in defense of children, health care workers, academics and ordinary people, when?

Sincerely and with aloha,

Melissa Chimera

Honokaa, HI

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:01:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathryn L Bradford	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Good morning,

I hope this testimony finds you well.

I expect elected officials to act in accordance with their constituents. I need you to support the SCR13, a call for a ceasefire in Palestine. The islands are small, but we can make a mighty stance by being the first state to fully support a ceasefire. I can guarantee that I will show up for you at the polls and support your campaign come election time if you support SCR13. Equally, I will do everything I can to see you unseated should you go against SCR13.

Respectfully,

Katy Bradford

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:13:48 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeleine Turner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying as a Jewish woman living on the Big Island. I am in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues. Please pass SCR13 unamended.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:16:34 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Sisiam	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

**I am writing in support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution. Please stand on the right side of history and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the power of the United States to end the war and allow humanitarian aid into Gaza.**

**As a world leader it is imperative we support all efforts made to provide aid, end the fighting and bring about a lasting peace in the Middle East. We must stand firm in our demands for a ceasefire in Gaza. We must allow for the steady flow of food, medical supplies and other resources into Gaza. The conditions in Gaza are dire with over a million people facing severe food insecurity, and approximately 85% of the population internally displaced. Israeli forces are systematically destroying infrastructure including hospitals, places of worship and schools. Innocent civilians including journalists and aid workers are being targeted. With over 30,000 Palestinians lives lost, and more projected to die from famine, it is unconscionable for us as a nation, capable of ending the devastation, to allow these atrocities to continue.**

**We must demand Israel end the war and open borders, allowing for more aid to reach those in need. If there is no compliance; there is no financial or military aid. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, Israel is the largest cumulative recipient of US Aid, with the majority of funding going towards bolstering Israel's military. Since 1946 to 2023 the U.S. has provided nearly \$300 billion in aid to Israel. Let's stop writing Israel blank checks to commit genocide!**

**Please stand with both the local and international community advocating for peace, by supporting SCR13.**

**“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” - MLK**



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:25:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micky Huihui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

**I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended.** This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:38:02 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo,

Andrew Isoda

Lahaina, Maui

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:46:14 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noelle Iati	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support passing SCR13 unamended. Hawai‘i has a duty to speak up against the war crimes being committed in Gaza, and to support peace over war. Hawai‘i has an opportunity to lead the nation as the first state to pass a ceasefire resolution, and the spirits of aloha, mālama, and pono require us to take that leadership role when others will not, agitating for peace against war and life over death. Once again, I strongly support passing SCR13 unamended, and hope that the legislature will take action in line with Hawaiian values to denounce the violence in Gaza and call for peace.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:49:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lily Engle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am writing in staunch support of SRC13. I am full of relief that our government has granted the opportunity for this measure to be heard as it remains urgent and critical as well as representative of the consciousness of our population and elected officials. Each and every human being has an obligation to one another that is currently being violated in the most grotesque ways by Israeli actions in Gaza. At this point, with over 30,000 murdered, a ceasefire is only the building block for the liberated Palestine we have a responsibility to uplift alongside Hawai'i. Please support a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and understand that your actions as a senate will influence my engagement and support of the Hawai'i state government for years to come. This is a moment of extreme determination and one that will echo through history, I strongly urge you to support SCR13.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:49:44 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert H Stiver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly advocate for your passage of SCR13 (UNAMENDED)! The indigenous residents of historical Palestine have been dehumanized for many decades by the Zionist regime holding sway in Israel...and now a full-scale "starvation by war" and GENOCIDE is underway (for some 180 days). The Palestinians need, and demand, human rights, justice and peace for themselves. To this end, please add your commitment to a CEASEFIRE, immediately, in the 'holy' land. Your position might even change what I view as the inflexible and unsupportable position of POTUS Biden, as he boasts of "ironclad" support of Israel's malign intentions to expel (eliminate) the Palestinians "on the [rubbleized] ground" of Gaza (and more and more in the illegally Occupied West Bank as Zionist colonial settlers maraud and commit mayhem),. And all of this comes with IMPUNITY for Israel! That is WRONG, WRONG, WRONG on myriad levels.

We -- Hawaii, America, Palestine, (even) Israel, the Middle East, the world -- must put in place a CEASEFIRE to try to get this trainwreck back on track and running for PEACE, not WAR/GENOCIDE. You can help move the process forward: PLEASE PASS SCR134 (UNAMENDED)!

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:54:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barryn Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Can you imagine if 40,000 people (and really countless others over the course of 75+ years) were systematically murdered here in Hawai`i? No one would stand for this. We would be taking up arms. My position does not change even if it's for people in the Middle East, in Palestine, in Lebanon, in Yemen, in Iran, and even when it's the US who is responsible. As a lifelong resident of O`ahu, Hawai`i, I am in full support of this measure.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:57:13 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniela Spoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this resolution. The assault on civilians, including women and children, in Gaza is inexcusable and must be stopped immediately. The Hawaii legislature will be making a powerful statement by officially asking for a permanent ceasefire. Thank you for considering this resolution and taking a stand.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:57:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruby Dodge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

my name is Ruby and I live in Kailua Kona.

I am testifying in absolute support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. You must fulfill your kuleana to your constituents who are responsible for electing you and raise your voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the genocide by Israel, towards the Palestinian people and their resistance of colonization and occupation, has taken a devastating toll on innocent civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some +38,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed JUST since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another +70,000 have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements that require immediate and long term medical treatment which Israel also denies.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive - this tactic has been ongoing since the building of the apartheid wall. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if Israel is not held accountable immediately.

An immediate ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into Gaza to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards. A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Israel (the settler colony has illegally detained some 10,000 Palestinians for indefinite sentence lengths) and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by Israel in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war as Iraq recently fired warning shots over the iron dome. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on



Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Your decision on this will effect my future votes for you all, and I have been keeping my attention on the way you each take action against (or for) Israel committing war crimes. The younger generation cares deeply, and our eyes are on you.

Ceasefire now.

Ruby Dodge

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:59:25 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna Camacho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would:

- put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties
- halt the mounting death toll in Gaza
- enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering
- allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.
- provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza
- independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by

dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Please stand for Palestine and collective liberation of all oppressed people.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:59:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Travis Hancock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards. A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

mahalo

Travis Hancock

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:05:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hideki Kimukai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:08:04 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alan R. Spector	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SCR13. This highly flawed resolution makes no reference to the Oct 7, 2023 Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel, and does not call for a release of hostages, including American hostages. It is a one-sided and biased resolution.

Alan R. Spector, Kaneohe



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:15:19 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Hanns Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SCR13 and respectfully urge your committee to pass this important resolution without any amendments. It is imperative to ensure its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. I urge you to use your influential and esteemed voice to represent the united call of your constituents to demand our federal elected representatives to leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring an end to the violence in Gaza.

The current conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has resulted in an unprecedented escalation of violence, causing a devastating toll on civilians. The number of casualties is staggering, with over 33,000 Palestinian civilians killed since October 7 and another 7,000 missing and presumed dead, the majority of whom are women and children. Additionally, more than 70,000 people have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

I understand that the situation is complex, and I appreciate the efforts that have been made to address it so far. However, I respectfully urge you to consider the urgency of the situation and to take swift action to help bring an end to the conflict. A ceasefire would put an end to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza, and enable aid agencies to provide life-saving aid, water, and medical supplies to the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It would also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel, and equipment they desperately need and repair damaged wards.

In addition, a ceasefire would provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity and prevent further atrocities.

The current conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring an end to the violence in Gaza. It is now more pressing than ever to address the root causes of this conflict by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians. This cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

As Americans, we have a unique responsibility to hold our president accountable and demand that he uses his influence over Israel to demand a permanent ceasefire and peace process. I respectfully urge this esteemed body to pass this resolution without any amendments to help bring an end to the conflict and provide much-needed relief to the people of Gaza.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:31:20 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eve	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.’s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

My support for SCR13 is deeply personal and reflects a broader commitment to principles of peace and justice that we all share as citizens of Hawai‘i. Growing up in a community that treasures ‘ohana and aloha, I was taught from an early age to uphold the values of empathy, peace, and global responsibility. These values compel me to speak today.

The situation in Gaza has reached a critical point, and it deeply troubles me to witness the ongoing suffering and violence that affects both Palestinians and Israelis. It is a complex issue, no doubt, marked by a history of conflict and strife that has too often overlooked the simple, human desire for peace and safety that we all share.

SCR13 is not just a resolution; it is a call to action for us as a state and a community that believes in advocating for human dignity and peace. By supporting this resolution, we are not only voicing our concern but also echoing the calls of many of our constituents who feel deeply connected to this issue—whether through personal relationships, cultural ties, or a fundamental concern for human rights.

I urge you, as our representatives in the Hawai‘i State Legislature, to recognize the importance of this moment. Let us raise our collective voice and use the considerable influence of the United States to encourage a cessation of violence and a meaningful progress toward lasting peace. The world watches, and history will remember our actions. Please pass SCR13 unamended and stand on the right side of history, advocating for a peaceful resolution that ensures safety and respect for all people involved.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:40:40 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jonathan jay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please add our voices to the global cries to shut the violence down, and end this frenzy of killing.  
please vote yes on this important piece of moral legislation. thanks.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:46:40 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonniebrooke Bullock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha CAI committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of the Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution, SCR13. Israel is committing genocide and more than 14,000 children have been murdered thus far, that we know of, and many many more have sustained horrible injuries including amputations. Here in Hawai'i children are highly valued and protected. As moral human beings we should hold equal value for all children of our world. For this reason we need to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Please pass SCR13 unamended and ensure that it passes in the full House. Mahalo, Bonniebrooke Bullock, a very concerned Mother

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:49:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
joan Levy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. We cannot and must not silently stand by and allow these atrocities to continue.

thank you, Joan Levy

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 12:51:50 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this resolution. Ceasefire now.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas Pintor (Any Pronouns)

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 1:04:44 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support for all the reasons listed in the Whereas section.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 1:06:13 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katherine Rothman	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

As a Jewish person and a constituent, I am testifying in strong support of SCR13. Hawai'i must stand up for what is right and demand that our federal officials take every action possible to stop the flow of violence and suffering in Gaza.

By international law, civilians in war have a right to aid which includes food, water, shelter, and medical care. The United States cannot continue to support a government which violates those laws, utilizes starvation as a weapon of war, prevents the flow of aid, and places Palestinian men, women, and children in situations of unimaginable suffering, such as enduring operations without anesthetic. The situation becomes more dire the longer violence continues and life-giving aid is so insufficient for the mounting humanitarian needs. A ceasefire will allow for aid to enter, violence to stop, Israeli hostages to return home, and conversations to begin about dismantling the apartheid system imposed on Palestinians in Israel.

As we approach the Jewish holiday of Passover next week, let it be a reminder that Judaism values standing up to oppression in all of its forms, and that everything possible must be done to stop the genocide of the Palestinian people. Thank you,

Katherine Rothman

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 1:11:01 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
elizabeth	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Elizabeth Collins... I am testifying in strong support of SCR13.

I am a resident of Hawai'i & a mother to 2 hapa-Hawaiian keiki. I share this fact because, as a mother to indigenous children in their own homelands, it infuriates and disgusts me that the innocent children of Palestine are indigenous civilians who have every right to live on their homelands, and they are being bombed & starved mercilessly by the Israeli government (who is receiving a ridiculous amount of financial support from the American government!). As a working mother and a taxpayer, there is no way that I can stand by knowing that I, as an "American citizen," am helping (although against my will/wishes) to fund this disastrous genocide. Since October, I have been mentally on the edge upon learning what was happening to these innocent families (in their homeland). There is a part of me that wants to just stop working and get everybody to stop with me until this sick attempt to acquire more resources by the governments that have too much already, is stopped... Keep your greedy hands out of the Middle East, America and Israel!!!

I have been protesting with a peaceful group of fellow conscientious community members every week that I can... We have marched to inform our community as to what is happening in Palestine because, apparently, not everybody is informed of the truth. The propaganda being shared by American and Israeli Zionist media is not helping in that way, and we know it. The cultural determination (namely survival at this point!) of the Palestinian people is of utmost importance... I am an alumnus of UH Mānoa, with a degree focused in cultural and environmental anthropology, a certificate in PACE (peace and conflict education). The long list of cultural and environmental injustices happening simultaneously in Palestine is so overwhelming & outrageous!!! (The atrocities sweeping decades that have traumatized generations.) Haven't our brothers & sisters (in the one of the planet's most ancient human ancestors' roots) endured too much torture, fear, terror? Do you want to know what creates people who want to become terrorists? I'll give you one guess... I can guarantee it's somebody who was terrorized throughout their lives. We are creating more potential for that. The irony of saying that the reasoning behind all of this madness is a hunt for a "terrorist group" is dishonest and at this point, I'm praying that humankind is waking up to the truth, (I would hope is inevitable, but fear may never happen if they are a diehard Zionist. What side of history do you want to be on from here on out, America? We already know that America has a horrible track record for its genocide to create the nation of the United States. Are we really going to continue this terrible legacy or do we want to make better in 2024? Wake up, people!

There is no way that what is happening can be referred to as humane... The amount of human rights violations happening every day in Palestine should result in all leaders who have been complicit in allowing this genocide to continue (for half a year) locked up for participation and collaboration in such. I think it's important that starvation now being rampant in what's left of Palestinian survivors be mentioned... aid that has been intercepted, hospitals have been bombed: doctors, patients, and nurses have all been murdered, as well as journalists; this aid that was intercepted by the Israeli military, attacking innocent people who are starving and trying to get much needed supplies and food to refugee camps. Killing healthcare workers, starving pregnant mothers, stillborn babies being born daily, who starved in the womb... How much heartbreak do we have to witness to say enough is enough?!

I have signed various petitions, left messages, written letters, called offices of representatives, and the White House, all while trying to tend to the needs of my family and honestly, I can't even imagine what the mothers of Palestine are going through... every chance I have to speak up for them, the people who must have their voices heard... these people who are being silenced and murdered every day. We must end this now!!!

I implore you to call for an immediate and permanent cease-fire in Palestine now!!!

A hui hou, mālama pono.

Elizabeth

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 1:15:07 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rik Masterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Brothers and Sisters,

I am testifying in **strong** support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Stand with your constituents.

**Demand** our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to end the violence and suffering in Gaza.

Need I remind you of the the unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups and the devastating toll on civilians. I think not. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately. Isn't it *way* past bad enough to demand an end to it?

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to **end the staggering levels of human suffering**. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

A 'Military' solution is not...the underlying issues need to be addressed with aloha infused dialogue. This a no brainer. Listen to your heart. Speak what you hear from it. Turn the tide of suffering. Show the world the future of Aloha in action.

Mahalo,

Rik Masterson

Hilo

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 1:22:33 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doorae Shin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this resolution.

Mahalo,

Doorae Shin

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 1:29:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anthony Arce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful voice to demand our federal elective representatives leverage the United States' influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The level of casualties and scale of destruction in the occupied Gaza Strip is unprecedented. Countless lives have been shattered, ripped apart, and upended.

It's been 6 months since Israel launched its catastrophic assault on Gaza. More than 33,000 Gazans are dead. Another 75,000+ have been wounded, and another 7,000+ are still missing and presumed dead.

This genocide in Gaza is the deadliest in the 21st century in terms of its pace. In only the first 100 days, 1 out of every 100 Gazans was murdered, including 1 out of every 85 children in Gaza. That was months ago. Things have only gotten worse.

The U.S. continues to fund and arm Israel, while utterly shattering the perception that any kind of "rules-based" international order exists. A permanent ceasefire is a necessary first step to save more innocent lives from being extinguished.

The public has made it abundantly clear that we support the Hawai'i Ceasefire Resolution.

With each day that passes more lives are lost and the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza is getting worse. You MUST adopt SCR13.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 1:44:50 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Philips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this resolution! The world needs peace above all!



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 1:57:26 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mimi Mungomba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive, especially as medical infrastructure has been significantly compromised and destroyed, leaving many without adequate medical support in addition to the daily threat of bombing, starvation and dehydration. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

Those of us who have chosen to pay attention have watched day in and day out as the death toll continues to rise, doing all we can to raise our voices and appeal to elected officials. The US has continued to fund and arm Israel despite mounting international pressure to hold Israel accountable to international law and to comply with recent ICJ rulings.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in

Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Please honor the voices of your constituents and represent us adequately by passing SCR13 **unamended**.

***HELP MAKE HAWAI'I THE FIRST "STATE" TO PASS A CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION! FREE PALESTINE AND END THE APARTHEID AND OCCUPATION!***

With gratitude,

Mimi

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 2:19:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Desori Bermudes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 2:23:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Acasio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass the resolution unamended. Mahalo for doing the work on behalf of the people.

Laura Acasio, Hilo

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 2:56:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angel Milling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please please please for the love of humanity we need to stop this genocide ! It's absolutely disgusting that we are supporting the brutal murders of innocent civilians obviously for LAND! This is no longer a retaliation it has gone on for too long and I'm in absolute disgust.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 2:57:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Brower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support. The colonial massacre is atrocious, devastating, and will have traumatic impacts for generations to come. It is also escalatating global conflict.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 3:04:32 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elle Overs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong and unconditional support of SCR13. I beg this committee to pass the SCR13 bill with no amendments and ensure its final official adoption by the Hawaii State Legislature. Please use and raise your powerful legislative voice to demand our federal government's bringing an end to its involvement in the violence in Gaza. The United States must use its leverage in Israel to bring about an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the West Bank, for humanity's sake. I am ashamed to be a tax-paying citizen of the United States with the current use of American tax money. The constituents of our own country lack basic rights such as free healthcare, education, and even access to needs such as food, water, and shelter. Our infrastructure across the nation is outdated and in need of drastic improvement, yet with all these problems at home, we are sending billions of dollars across the world to fuel unnecessary and inhumane violence and destruction. Please choose to be apart of the right side of history, and use our democratic power to end genocide and free Palestine. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elle Overs



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 3:14:06 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Harrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

My father was Jewish. I am not because my mother was not. However, I can assure you that my father's passion for the plight of the Palestinians/Gazans matched my own. Furthermore, I can assure you that opposing the results of the actions and policies of ultraright Zionists is not antisemitic, nor is it antizionist.

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 4:05:01 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angelene Applewhite	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

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A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza, and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water, and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel, and desperately needed equipment and repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo for opposing genocide and for helping save innocent lives.

Angelene Applewhite

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 4:15:40 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Olivia Ambo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SCR13 and strongly urge the committee to pass this resolution unamended. Gaza has been under attack for over 150 calamitous days. Tens of thousand people are dead, entire families have been wiped out, universities have been destroyed, hospitals have attacked, infrastucture and sanitation systems have been ruined, and the territory is now facing a famine. As people of the world it is our moral obligation to stop this disproportionate barbaric collective punishment. As people living on occupied Indigenous lands, it is our obligation to speak against Israel's illegal settlement and blockade of Palestinian lands, and control of its borders, territorial waters, and air space in the pursuit of true peace.

In January the International Court of Justice ruled that Israel must refrain from acts under the Genocide convention, prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to genocide, and take immediate and effective measures to ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza. In March the United Nations Security Council demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaze for the month of Ramadan.

But since then, Israel has bombed the Rafah refugee camp, the area it declared Gazans must evacuate to to avoid the fighting, has massacred Gazans trying to get aid, and has killed foreign aid workers. Israel is in blatant violation of the ICJ and continues to commit war crimes, and we must act to create pressure for a permanent ceasefire.

As Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International, has said: "Alarming signs of genocide in Gaza, and Israel's flagrant disregard for international law highlight the urgent need for effective, unified pressure on Israel to stop its onslaught against Palestinians. An immediate ceasefire by all parties remains essential and – although not ordered by the Court – is the most effective condition to implement the provisional measures and end unprecedented civilian suffering."

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 4:32:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erica Susan Brooke Schwarz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of SCR13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution. This is resolution will harm the Jews who are being harassed in your communities and does not ask for the hostages taken by Hamas to be returned or for Hamas to be removed from power.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 5:15:44 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Shebiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of SCR13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution. This is resolution will harm the Jews who are being harassed in your communities and does not ask for the hostages taken by Hamas to be returned or for Hamas to be removed from power. There has been an alarming increase in antisemitism on Oahu since the tragic events of October 7. I have personally seen swastikas spraypainted on buildings, tons of harassment, the chanting of anti-Jewish genocidal slogans, and a complete disregard for the humanity and demonization of the Jews of this community. That is not what this community should be all about.

Over 1,200 Jews were murdered and kidnapped in Israel on October 7th, a day that saw the the most loss of Jewish lives on the planet SINCE the Holocaust. This is a tragedy. And the subsequent war is a tragedy as well. I mourn the tens of thousands of Gazan civilians who have lost their lives in this conflict.

A problem in America is that people who have no family connection, or ties to the region, or really much previous knowledge about Israel and Palestine seem to make this conflict an "us" versus "them" type of thing. They don't understand the conflict at all, and so they "pick sides". There is only one side here... and that is peace.

Resolutions like SCR13, while they are well-meaning, do not promote peace. They do not foster understanding. They perpetuate an "us versus them" mentality and framing of a VERY COMPLICATED geopolitical situation, and turn it into "picking sides". Of course calling for a ceasefire is reasonable, but there must be some context and balance, otherwise this will just lead to more conflict, and more misunderstanding. Innocent Gazan lives are at stake, AND so are innocent Jewish lives.

ANY RESOLUTION that calls for a ceasefire, should also call for the immediate release of the Israeli hostages, and for Hamas to be removed from power. Hamas has been exploiting this conflict for over a decade. They steal aid and supplies meant for Palestinians and become rich off if it. Most of the leadership lives in mansions in Qatar with networths in the millions. Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people. They embed themselves in civilian areas such as hospitals and schools, specifically to ensure maximum loss of Palestinian lives. Political dissidents in Gaza are routinely kidnapped and murdered. The basic human rights of women, LGBT people, and other groups are trampled on. Hamas is a violent regime that oppresses the Palestinian people. Simply calling for Israel to "ceasefire" is not a complete picture and does not

help the Palestinian people. It normalizes Hamas. PLUS it has the added effect of enforcing this false narrative of people picking sides, and viewing Israel as singularly to blame, and viewing the Jewish casualties and hostage lives STILL IN CAPTIVITY, of not being important. This type of resolution LEADS to dehumanization and demonization of Jews, which of course has been leading to more antisemitism.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 5:21:13 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Estee Weinbaum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in OPPOSITION of SCR13 and urge the committee of culture , arts , and international affairs to amend or defer this resolution.

This resolution will harm the Jews that are being harassed in your communities. It doesn't ask for the hostages taken from Hamas to be returned or Hamas to be removed from power.

Please bring them home

Thank you

Dear Honorable Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear testimony today. My name is Adam Benjamin Goldenberg. Today, I testify as a private citizen, representing only my individual self. I am testifying in opposition of SCR13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution.

I live in town and am the Guest Experience Manager of the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu's Landmark Hotel. Previously, I served as the House Manager of Hawaii Theatre. I am a proud Jew, but a scared Jew. I have been startled at the incredible rise and normalization of antisemitism in Hawaii, so much so that I have stopped using my last name professionally, something a past version of myself would not believe. I have seen elected progressive officials I organized for promote antisemitic conspiracy theories, and have been met with swastikas on my commute to work.

We live in a place where we raise up indigenous voices and put intersectionality first, as we should, however if this resolution passes unchanged, it will not be extending intersectionality to Jews. It will further marginalize one of the most targeted groups in the United States, promoting the trend of record high antisemitism that we have seen since October 7th, a trend that has been documented by a myriad of organizations and governments.

In Hawaii, Jewish history goes back centuries. Jews advised the Hawaiian monarchy and served as Attorney General. A Torah presented to King Kalakaua still sits on this island. Jews urging the King to take back Hawaii for Hawaiians were chased off the island by the committee of safety. We are one of the only states to have had multiple Jewish heads of state. How is it, then, that Hawaii has also become a place where Jewish history is whitewashed and intersectionality is not extended to us? I am scared to be a Jew in Hawaii currently. My experience as a Jew in Hawaii over the past six months is the anthesis of what I know Aloha to be.

Jews are not a monolith, but we are one of the smallest and best organized minority groups in the world, and we know the language of this resolution does not represent the Jewish community. We are a multi-ethnic ethnoreligion whose DNA directly traces us to the Kingdom of Judea, modern day Israel, our ancestral land. This is something history, archeology, and genealogy is explicit on. Jews living in Israel today can read 3,000 year old coins that come out of the ground, and Jews around the world still follow the calendar directly linked to the seasons and cycles of Israel.

Hamas, the US and EU recognized terrorist group funded and backed by Iran, attacked Israel on Oct 7. There was a ceasefire in place on October 6th, and Hamas broke it on October 7th. Hamas continues to hold hostages, including American citizens, which the UN and human rights groups confirm are undergoing regular abuse. My heart breaks for all the innocent civilians, both Israelis and Palestinians, who are caught in the crosshairs of extremism. I have cried for the lives lost on both sides. A one sided resolution like this will not help these innocent people; a

resolution like this, unchanged, will enable Jew-haters locally and further remove Jewish voices from the conversation.

There are over one billion people in the world that hold anti-Jewish views, dwarfing the number of actual Jews in the world, and this has always been the situation for the Jewish people. Passing this resolution as is will enable the people who have harassed Jews, unchallenged, across these islands for the past six months. More personally, it will further enable the people who moved me to stop using my identifiably Jewish last name publicly for fear of my safety.

We should call for a lasting and sustainable ceasefire, that paves the way for peace in the region and calls for the immediate release of the hostages, but that cannot and will not happen by erasing and tokenizing Jewish voices and history, and glorifying a terrorist organization that openly and unapologetically calls for the murder of all Jews, and who boast that they want "another" October 7th.

Please, continue to preserve Jewish life in Hawaii, and do not pass this resolution as is.

Mahalo for your kokua,

Adam Benjamin Goldenberg

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 5:31:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vinny Algeri-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

I am testifying in full support of SCR13 and urge you to pass this resolution unamended. The US and Hawai'i in general should be in the front in the fight for freedom, especially for a permanent and immediate ceasefire in Palestine.

Palestinians have livestreamed and photographed and videoed their deaths and suffering for months on end. Over 33,000 people have been murdered. Survivors have provided testimony of Israel's war crimes to human rights groups around the world. What more must they do before we end the unconscionable violence on their people? And Israel claims this is all in the name of Hamas and the Israeli hostages, but these conditions put the hostages at just as much risk. It is clear this is an excuse to attack Palestine and clear out Gaza.

A permanent and immediate ceasefire would put a stop to all unlawful attacks by all parties. It will fully allow humanitarian aid, with no blockades, into the Gaza Strip. Any negotiations that need to be made can be made in the peace following. But delaying a ceasefire only causes more deaths. There is simply no excuse anymore, no matter which way you try to spin it. If you're not a genocidal murderer, you know that this violence on this unimaginable scale is simply unjustifiable and should be stopped.

Please take action to tackle the root of this violence: Israel's system of apartheid on Palestine. That Israeli lives are worth more to us than Palestinian lives. Dismantle the idea that we will allow Israel to commit war crimes on Palestine or that we will send them a blank check for weapons to destroy Palestine. Only once this violence ends can we move forward towards peace and freedom.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 5:32:33 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary Kubo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards. A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 5:32:54 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shirley Gabber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of SCR 13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution. This resolution does not ask for the return of hostages taken by Hamas and does not ask for Hamas to be removed from power. Hamas is an internationally recognized terrorist organization that, if left in place, will commit the same atrocities they wreaked upon Israeli civilians on October 7 again and again. A ceasefire that leaves Hamas in place means that more innocent people will be killed in the future.

RE: Testimony of Kayla Oshiro  
Strong Support for SCR13: The Hawai‘i Ceasefire Resolution  
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs (CAI)  
April 18, 2024

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.’s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

In the spirit of kuleana, I implore you to recognize the historical significance of our actions. We must heed the lessons of the past, understanding that our choices today directly impact future generations. By supporting the Ceasefire in Gaza Resolution, we demonstrate our commitment to breaking the cycle of violence and injustice, choosing a path that aligns with our collective responsibility to create a more just and peaceful world for those who will inherit the consequences of our decisions. It is our kuleana to avoid repeating the errors of history and make choices that reflect our dedication to a better future for all.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will represent the values of Hawai‘i by endorsing the Ceasefire in Gaza Resolution.

Sincerely,

Kayla Oshiro

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 5:41:23 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Daly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SCR13 CEASEFIRE IN GAZA**

**SUPPORT**

The USA has a moral and lawful obligation to prevent the current atrocities -likely genocide- being done to the race of Palestinians remaining in the occupied Gaza Strip which is a willfully made and recognized death camp and kill zone.

SCR13 is a bunch of words, nevertheless I support it, in that it's evidence of admission of an atrocity, that has been described as genocide by experts. It's an admission of submission to the treaties and judgements pertaining to the International Court of Justice and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to which the USA subscribes.

Yet beyond words, and in reality it is paramount on so many human and survival levels that the fake state of Hawai'i with the aloha it might still process, to partition the USA to decrease immediately in facilitating the Israeli attacks through critically and militarily enabling it. This co-sponsorship along with the UK and Germany is disgusting.

An otherwise restored Hawaiian Kingdom free of USA military occupation would no doubt be inspirational in the global prevention of outdated international violence.

Genocide is most often described as the worst crime of all humankind.

A Universal Instrument, The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide ADOPTED 09 December 1948 BY the UN General Assembly, Resolution 260 A (III) was seen as a moral imperative after the German genocide of Jews in WWII.

The International Court of Justice ICJ, with only one vote against from Judge Sebutinde, decided to order Israel to 'take all measures within its power to prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to commit genocide against members of the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip' (§ April 5, 2024 The court found sufficient evidence

Under the 1948 convention, nation states are obliged to prevent genocide. This includes the USA as a treaty member. Prevention includes actions to cease any plan or development of genocide



and to intervene in the act of genocide, and to IMMEDIATELY intervene in the event of plausible genocide - this is what the ICJ did within its capacity on April 5, 2024.

Despite that, the USA is militarily supporting the Israeli genocide, mass murder, plausible genocide -call it as you will- which is not only contrary to the Immediate Ceasefire and prevention orders but is outright and overtly being complicit in these grotesque war crimes - crimes of six months and counting.

It's going to be a huge slap in the face to our fore parents who have recognized law and wrongdoing including those justices who wrote the orders in the aftermath of the Holocaust if Hawai'i can't lobby for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:04:36 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Cohen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of SCR13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution. This resolution will harm the Jews who are being harassed in your community and does not ask for the hostages taken by the terror organization Hamas to be returned or for Hamas to be removed from power. Such resolution will not end the bloodshed and autrocities that Hamas is stating publicly that it will continue doing in the future.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:10:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Israa Leibrand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature.

For the last six months, Israel has killed over an estimated 30,000+ people and wounded thousands more. According to UNICEF, one Gazan child is killed or injured every ten minutes. This genocide actively taking place in Gaza is the now deadliest in the 21st century in terms of its pace. Israel has committed countless war crimes, such as the blockade of humanitarian aid causing starvation and malnutrition, the bombing of hospitals, schools, and religious structures, the intentional targeting of civilians, and more. How is any of this humane? How can we, as U.S. citizens of occupied Hawai'i, sit back and watch this unfold before our eyes?

The United States plays a significant role in the ongoing genocide in Gaza, which is why we need your support. Not only does the U.S. continue to fund and arm Israel's military, but it's also abused its veto power to block the UN Security Council from calling for a ceasefire.

On January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that there is a real risk of genocide and ordered Israel to "take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian aid." However, Israel continues to ignore this. The continued level of casualties and destruction in Gaza is unprecedented and inhumane.

With each day that passes, the death toll rises, and the humanitarian catastrophe in the occupied Gaza Strip progressively worsens. Israel continues its ruthless bombardment, killing innocent Palestinians at a staggering rate, and there is no end in sight- not without your help. For these reasons, I am in support of a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

Mahalo for your time.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:15:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:27:26 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Halevi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend this proposal as in its current form it omits and distorts several facts. Hamas broke the ceasefire when it infiltrated Israel and raped, murdered and kidnapped Israeli civilians.

To call for a ceasefire limits Israel's rights to protect its citizens and hinders Israel's attempt to rescue the hostages.

Palestinian civilians are being used by Hamas as human shields. We should be calling for Hamas to be held accountable for war crimes and not calling for Israel to cease its legitimate defense against terrorism.

The bill in its current form smacks of antisemitism as it does not even mention the Jewish civilian hostages.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:46:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cliff Halevi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

Please amend resolution SCR13. In its current form, this resolution grossly distorts the truth and omits fundamental facts about the conflict between the democratic country of Israel and the jihadist terror organization Hamas.

Resolution SCR 13 does not mention the following crucial pieces of information regarding the war:

- Hamas is a terrorist organization according to the US Department of State. Israel is a democratic country and a strategic regional ally of the United States.
- Hamas must return the living hostages and the bodies of murdered hostages who were kidnapped on October 7th by Hamas terrorists and continue to be held captive today.
- Israel has a right to exist and to defend itself against terrorism.
- On October 7th, Hamas terrorists broke a ceasefire by invading Israel and committing unspeakable atrocities against Israeli civilians.
- Hamas uses Gazan civilians as human shields.
- Hamas launches a barrage of rockets into Israel on a daily basis.

SCR 13 equates Israel and Hamas as equal players, which is misinformed, misleading, and dangerous. Israel is a democratic country, a strategic ally, and a key regional partner in the Middle East. Hamas is a Jihadist terrorist group akin to ISIS.

SCR 13 fails to recognize that Hamas is solely responsible for this conflict. Hawai'i's political pressure should be on Hamas to do the following:

- 1) Surrender;



2) Release all living hostages and bodies of deceased hostages;

3) Stop firing rockets at Israel.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cliff Halevi

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:50:37 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Raudabaugh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Here's the full text of what we want everyone to understand:

Aloha members of the committee,

Please amend resolution SCR13. In its current form, this resolution grossly distorts the truth and omits fundamental facts about the conflict between the democratic country of Israel and the jihadist terror organization Hamas.

Resolution SCR 13 does not mention the following crucial pieces of information regarding the war:

- Hamas is a terrorist organization according to the US Department of State. Israel is a democratic country and a strategic regional ally of the United States.
- Hamas must return the living hostages and the bodies of murdered hostages who were kidnapped on October 7th by Hamas terrorists and continue to be held captive today.
- Israel has a right to exist and to defend itself against terrorism.
- On October 7th, Hamas terrorists broke a ceasefire by invading Israel and committing unspeakable atrocities against Israeli civilians.
- Hamas uses Gazan civilians as human shields.
- Hamas launches a barrage of rockets into Israel on a daily basis.

SCR 13 equates Israel and Hamas as equal players, which is misinformed, misleading, and dangerous. Israel is a democratic country, a strategic ally, and a key regional partner in the Middle East. Hamas is a Jihadist terrorist group akin to ISIS.

SCR 13 fails to recognize that Hamas is solely responsible for this conflict. Hawai'i's political pressure should be on Hamas to do the following:

- 1) Surrender;
- 2) Release all living hostages and bodies of deceased hostages;
- 3) Stop firing rockets at Israel.

Thank you for your consideration,

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:51:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Raudabaugh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Here's the full text of what we want everyone to understand:

Aloha members of the committee,

Please amend resolution SCR13. In its current form, this resolution grossly distorts the truth and omits fundamental facts about the conflict between the democratic country of Israel and the jihadist terror organization Hamas.

Resolution SCR 13 does not mention the following crucial pieces of information regarding the war:

- Hamas is a terrorist organization according to the US Department of State. Israel is a democratic country and a strategic regional ally of the United States.
- Hamas must return the living hostages and the bodies of murdered hostages who were kidnapped on October 7th by Hamas terrorists and continue to be held captive today.
- Israel has a right to exist and to defend itself against terrorism.
- On October 7th, Hamas terrorists broke a ceasefire by invading Israel and committing unspeakable atrocities against Israeli civilians.
- Hamas uses Gazan civilians as human shields.
- Hamas launches a barrage of rockets into Israel on a daily basis.

SCR 13 equates Israel and Hamas as equal players, which is misinformed, misleading, and dangerous. Israel is a democratic country, a strategic ally, and a key regional partner in the Middle East. Hamas is a Jihadist terrorist group akin to ISIS.

SCR 13 fails to recognize that Hamas is solely responsible for this conflict. Hawai'i's political pressure should be on Hamas to do the following:

- 1) Surrender;
- 2) Release all living hostages and bodies of deceased hostages;
- 3) Stop firing rockets at Israel.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jill Raudabaugh

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 6:56:24 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Udi Gal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

Please amend resolution SCR13. In its current form, this resolution grossly distorts the truth and omits fundamental facts about the conflict between the democratic country of Israel and the jihadist terror organization Hamas.

Resolution SCR 13 does not mention the following crucial pieces of information regarding the war:

- Hamas is a terrorist organization according to the US Department of State. Israel is a democratic country and a strategic regional ally of the United States.
- Hamas must return the living hostages and the bodies of murdered hostages who were kidnapped on October 7th by Hamas terrorists and continue to be held captive today.
- Israel has a right to exist and to defend itself against terrorism.
- On October 7th, Hamas terrorists broke a ceasefire by invading Israel and committing unspeakable atrocities against Israeli civilians.
- Hamas uses Gazan civilians as human shields.
- Hamas launches a barrage of rockets into Israel on a daily basis.

SCR 13 equates Israel and Hamas as equal players, which is misinformed, misleading, and dangerous. Israel is a democratic country, a strategic ally, and a key regional partner in the Middle East. Hamas is a Jihadist terrorist group akin to ISIS.

SCR 13 fails to recognize that Hamas is solely responsible for this conflict. Hawai'i's political pressure should be on Hamas to do the following:

- 1) Surrender;

2) Release all living hostages and bodies of deceased hostages;

3) Stop firing rockets at Israel.

Thank you for your consideration,

Udi Gal

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:15:02 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bianca Mintz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of SCR13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution. This is resolution will harm the Jews who are being harassed in your communities and does not ask for the hostages taken by Hamas to be returned. Hamas is a terrorist organization that marched into a sovereign nation and kidnapped, murdered, and raped innocent civilians. Their goal is to exterminate every Jew on the face of this earth. If they are allowed to remain in power (and keep the hostages) they will continue to execute terror attacks across the world including the US and even Hawaii. They wish for death to every Jew and to America. In America and in Hawaii we stand up for what's right. Standing with Hamas (a terrorist organization) is not right. I urge you to be on the right side of history.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:18:41 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maor Bar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

Please amend resolution SCR13. In its current form, this resolution grossly distorts the truth and omits fundamental facts about the conflict between the democratic country of Israel and the jihadist terror organization Hamas.

Resolution SCR 13 does not mention the following crucial pieces of information regarding the war:

Hamas is a terrorist organization according to the US Department of State. Israel is a democratic country and a strategic regional ally of the United States.

Hamas must return the living hostages and the bodies of murdered hostages who were kidnapped on October 7th by Hamas terrorists and continue to be held captive today.

Israel has a right to exist and to defend itself against terrorism.

On October 7th, Hamas terrorists broke a ceasefire by invading Israel and committing unspeakable atrocities against Israeli civilians.

Hamas uses Gazan civilians as human shields.

Hamas launches a barrage of rockets into Israel on a daily basis.

SCR 13 equates Israel and Hamas as equal players, which is misinformed, misleading, and dangerous. Israel is a democratic country, a strategic ally, and a key regional partner in the Middle East. Hamas is a Jihadist terrorist group akin to ISIS.

SCR 13 fails to recognize that Hamas is solely responsible for this conflict. Hawai'i's political pressure should be on Hamas to do the following:

- 1) Surrender;
- 2) Release all living hostages and bodies of deceased hostages;
- 3) Stop firing rockets at Israel.

Thank you for your consideration,



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:19:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leslie Witten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Respectfully,

Leslie Witten

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:24:53 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maria Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the CAI Committee,

I respectfully urge you to pass this important resolution. I am in strong support of a total ceasefire in the Gaza region, and believe it is the only way to stop the horror and suffering that are happening in the region. Our planet is in danger of a world war, and we all need to add our voices to the call for peace in the Mid-East. Please help us send a signal to our federal representatives that Hawai'i constituents stand for peace and aloha all over the world.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony,

Maria Walker

1728 Hulu Rd.

Kapa'a, HI 96746

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

I am a resident of Honoka'a and constituent of Rep. Nakashima and Sen. Richards. I have contacted both of their offices several times over the past month to voice my opinion on this matter. Rep. Jill Tokuda, and Senators Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz are supposed to represent my interests at the federal level, and I have contacted their offices, too. Since October 7<sup>th</sup>, Senators Hirono and Schatz have voted 'yes' on two occasions (2/16/24 and 3/23/24) to provide a total of \$17 billion to allow the Biden administration to further arm Israel. They each cast both votes after the International Court of Justice had already imposed provisional measures and determined there was sufficient evidence that Israel was plausibly committing genocide against the Palestinian people. Although both Senators have conveniently and subsequently issued signed letters "urging" the administration to ensure Israel complies with international and US law, they haven't *demand*ed anything, least of all a permanent ceasefire. So, they've given their approval then suggested some conditions after the fact, and the administration has ignored their recommendations. This is grossly inadequate, and appears to be so by design.

Reps. Case and Tokuda both voted 'yes' on 3/23/24 to approve \$3.8 billion to Israel and will soon vote on whether to approve the additional \$14 billion approved by the Senate on 2/16. By the time SCR13 makes it to the floor, more money may be in the pipeline to further support Israel's forces, so if an unqualified ceasefire is not in place, the Israelis will have deeper stocks to continue their assault for an indeterminate amount of time.

For the past six months, I have been among the billions of people across the world watching in horror and disbelief while the governments of the world have refused to stop the mass murder of Palestinians at the hands of Israelis wearing uniforms. The Biden administration and the US Senate are active participants in the Israeli genocide against Palestinians because they have provided Israel with the means and methods to continue its aggression well past any reasonable claim of "self-defense", permitted collective punishment in the form of a siege, and blocked all meaningful efforts to stop it, even after six months of Israelis committing war crimes which they have broadcasted via social media and their leaders have telegraphed through public comments and deeds. The Israelis have engineered a famine and are using food, water, electricity, fuel and medical care as a weapon of war.

I was raised to believe that we all have a basic moral and legal responsibility to oppose genocide and the mass murder of civilians, regardless of the personal inconvenience in doing so. That's what makes it a principle. It's hard for me to fully express the disgust and disappointment I feel towards so many of our elected leaders and the appointed officials on

their staff and administration. Apparently, many of them do not hold those values. For such people, they believe that public revulsion to mass murder of civilians is a temporary inconvenience and just a passing phase, so they need to hear from all quarters that the people of the US demand an immediate ceasefire in Palestine, immediate provision of sufficient humanitarian aid, the release of all prisoners, and full legal accountability for all perpetrators of crimes (individuals and states, regardless of nationality), in full accordance with all US law and binding international treaties.

Our opposition to genocide and mass murder must be absolute and non-negotiable, regardless of political calculations, temporary impacts, or electoral consequences. An immediate ceasefire is necessary to promote peace and begin the processes of repair and accountability.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

I understand that many state legislators would rather avoid considering this issue, and defer it to the federal government, but this is affecting us all on our phones and in our homes, and we don't have many other options. I'm hoping the members of your committee have the courage and moral decency to exert pressure on our federal delegation by sending this important message. Please do whatever you can to stop Israel's vicious attacks on Palestinian civilians.

Regards,  
James L. Trasport, Jr.  
Honoka'a, HI

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:30:23 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arnold Kotler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I would like the CAI committee to pass SCR13 UNAMENDED.

Arnold Kotler

Kihei, Maui

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:45:39 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Saba Zimmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

***One child is killed or injured every 10 minutes in Gaza. Save the children.***

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this extremely urgent and critical resolution unamended. This is vital to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

***More than 15,300 children, 134 journalist, at least 490 workers and at least 244 aid workers have been killed. More than 37,600 civilians in Gaza have been killed by Israeli occupation forces since October 7th. More than 77,250 people have been injured, many critically wounded.***



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:20:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
afsheen siddiqi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in very strong support for this measure to speak up against the injustice, war crimes and inhumanity that our government is funding. Silence is complicity

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:30:06 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin Stamos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in the strongest possible support of this bill. I urge the committee to pass the urgent and overdue resolution, unamended. Please stand with the majority of your constituents who want an immediate end to the killing in Gaza. Only the U.S. has the power to leverage its influence over Israel to demand a ceasefire, and we expect you, as our elected representatives, to use that influence and adopt this resolution now.

Mahalo for your time. Ceasefire now.

Erin Stamos

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:31:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Austen Conlon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam and Vice Chair Martinez,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end. Mahalo nui loa.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:34:31 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connor Murakami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am a medical student testifying in **strong support of SCR13** and urging your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. **Please stand with your constituents** and raise your powerful, institutional voices to demand our federal elected representatives to leverage America's influence over Israel and to bring an end to the violence in Gaza.

As a medical student, I have been trained to identify the root causes of disease. **The ongoing conflict in Gaza did not begin on October 7th**. The Israeli apartheid state has subjected the Palestinian population to a brutal, decades-long occupation. As a U.S. ally, Israel has been allowed to commit horrible acts of violence **completely unchecked**. We are complicit in the untenable situation that has unfolded and **we cannot permit it to go on any longer**. A call for a permanent ceasefire is the **first step** in creating lasting peace in the Middle East.

As a future healer, I cannot stand idly by as I watch horrific videos every day of amputations being performed without anesthesia, children with severe burns, and countless lives being lost. Some **33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since October 7th** with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. **The majority of them are women and children**. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements. Furthermore, **over 2 million people in Gaza are on the verge of starvation** due to the blockades on goods, water, and fuel. **A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties**, allow for the release of hostages by both sides, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza, and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water, and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel, and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

As a settler on Hawaiian lands, I recognize the parallels between the Native Hawaiians and Palestinians as **occupied populations**. In 1993, President Clinton acknowledged and apologized for America's involvement in the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. If we continue to allow the unlawful expansion of Israeli territory on Palestinian land that has been going on for years before our very eyes then that apology has truly amounted to **nothing more than empty words**.

This conflict has **further escalated** with Israel's recent attack on the Iranian embassy in Syria and retaliation by Iran. The **best way** to prevent further escalation is to **bring the genocide in Gaza to an end**. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is **now more urgent than ever**. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:39:15 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessika Laufenberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 8:42:53 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Monisha Das Gupta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e CAI members,

I am writing in strong support of the resolution calling on President Biden and members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

With more than 33,000 Gazans dead, another 75,000+ wounded, famine setting in during the holy month of Ramadan, and Eid being observed in the midst of famine, this is a time for our politicians to stop playing politics and stand up for what is right. I

This morning I woke up to news of more than 70 Palestinians, including children, killed in the last 24 hours and more destruction of buildings in which displaced persons were sheltering in north and central Gaza. The scale of destruction in the six months of the war is enormous as is human suffering. There is still no potable, water, electricity, and life-saving medicines that civilians in Gaza can access. Malnutrition is everywhere. Every step you take as elected officials, even if it is symbolic, will add to the worldwide condemnation of the genocide in Gaza.

I am sure you understand that we are in a historic moment that will be remembered. This genocide in Gaza is the deadliest in the 21st century in terms of its pace. Do not cave to the pressures of those who are justifying this ongoing genocide. I appeal to you to pass this resolution.

Monisha Das Gupta



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:06:09 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Yurow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am testifying in opposition of SCR13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution. I am doing so because**

**1) this measure fails to take into account Hamas's genocidal aims towards not just Israel but all Jews everywhere-making any ceasefire impossible to truly implement while Hamas is still able to operate. By not asking for hostages taken by Hamas to be returned, by not asking for Hamas to be removed from power, and by not addressing Hamas's use of human shields and how that complicates the realities of war, it shows both an inability to hold both sides responsible for the conflict and a clear lack of understanding of the complex situation in the Middle East**

**2) I think that Hawai'i should focus it's valuable time, energy, and resources on issues that are our kuleana, i.e. continued recovery from the Maui Wildfires, affordable housing, etc**

**3) If the committee really thought it was their kuleana to take on and form resolutions about world events across the globe, then similar measures should have been introduced to address other, just as devastating crises. If the committee was truly concerned about oppressed peoples, genocides, and ethnic cleansings, the genocide of over 25,000 Rohingya in Myanmar in 2018 and over 1 million detained Uyghurs in China should have been addressed as well and equally so. If the committee was really in the business of introducing ceasefire measures, then similar measures should have been introduced to condemn the ongoing invasion by Russia of Ukraine in which over 31,000 Ukrainians have been killed, or in Yemen, who's recent civil war killed at least 150,000 people. If this committee is truly concerned with humanitarian disasters, then the current one under the barbaric rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan- which is currently now facing one of the world's worst humanitarian crisis with 80% of Afghan families living on less than \$1 daily per family member-must also be addressed. The fact this committee is not churning out measures addressing each and every one of these conflicts shows an implicit bias towards Israel.**

**This measure, while well-intentioned, shows a clear lack of understanding of the current conflict. I fear it is just jumping on the bandwagon of an incomplete point of view. I urge the committee to further educate themselves-on both sides- before introducing similar measures, and to either fairly then tackle other world issues as well, or to spend its time and energy focusing on the people of Hawai'i.**

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:06:22 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lily Hiilani Okimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members,

I am writing in strong support of SCR13. What has become a "retaliation" to the October 7th Hamas attack at the Nova Music Festival in Israel has grossly escalated to a genocide of over 35,000 innocent Palestinians, approximately 1% of the Gaza population. Over 70,000 Palestinians are wounded, and thousands are still missing under rubble of destroyed buildings and homes. The majority of these deaths are women and children, meaning this has never been about eliminating members of Hamas. In addition, there are still Israeli hostages in Gaza facing constant danger from Israel's indiscriminate rocket firings, and some have even been killed by members of the IDF. This has also never been about rescuing the hostages.

I am a volunteer of a grassroots collective called Operation Olive Branch, where we help Palestinian families raise funds to evacuate Gaza, rebuild their lives, and get access to basic necessities, perinatal and postpartum care. The only way Palestinians are able to evacuate is through a private travel company that's charging between \$5,000 - \$10,000 per person. I, along with the others in the collective, have grown close to these Palestinians and their families, as if they were our own family members or long-time friends. Several of these families need life-saving operations and/or medication, but are unable to due to several hospitals and medican clinics being bombed, and lack of medical supplies. Some are single mothers who have lost their husbands in the genocide and now have to raise three to four children on their own. Food prices have skyrocketed. Many were univeristy students studying to be doctors, translators, and even physical therapists, but now are training to survive.

I urge you to think about these families, think about humanity. Pass SCR13 UNAMENDED. Mahalo ā nui.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:07:35 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Altemus	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am a Jewish American who has lost family in the holocaust. The genocide committed against the Palestinian people by the Israeli government is not in my name nor in the name of my ancestors. Millions of other Jews are saying no to the Israeli government for the crimes it has committed and continues to commit against Palestinian people.

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**.

Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Palestinians are now reported starving to death due to Israel's tightened siege of Gaza, blocking the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel. This is a desperate humanitarian crisis that will get worse if the fighting does not stop immediately.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:14:46 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
D'Anna Asher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents to demand an end to the violence in Gaza.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. Please, do your part to stop arming Israel, and stop funding wars. Our world needs peace.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:15:27 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Jared Yurow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SCR 13 Testimony (Oppose)

I'd like to express my opposition to SCR 13 because I consider it inconsistent with Hawaii Revised Statutes § 5-7.5, the Aloha Spirit Law. According to Subsection (a),” 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.”

SCR 13 in its current form does not exemplify mutual regard and affection. It is an asymmetrical document that expresses support for one people (Palestinians) over another (Israelis). Both have suffered under the current conflict and historically. ‘Aloha’ also means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable. SCR 13 does nothing to address the underlying conditions which have led many Israelis to feel enmity towards Palestinians and many Palestinians to feel enmity towards Israelis. It does nothing to promote peace among Israelis and Palestinians but merely calls for a ceasefire. A ceasefire is not peace but merely a cessation of physical hostilities. War is as much a product of the mind and heart as it is of the battlefield. SCR 13’s mana’o is well-intentioned but indicates a lack of understanding of the diverse views and experiences of the people who live in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank and the Middle East. As such, it is incomplete, misguided and sends a message of “a’ole pono” to the world. This is not the way we in Hawaii should want to represent ourselves.

Mother Theresa famously said she would not participate in an anti-war demonstration but would attend a pro-peace rally. Aunty Pilahi Paki, who was responsible for the Aloha Spirit Law, said “The world will turn to Hawai’i as they search for world peace because Hawai’i has the key. And that key is Aloha!”

I would like to recommend a more comprehensive SCR that calls upon Israelis and Palestinians to work on a plan of mutual acceptance and coexistence. More importantly, in keeping with Aunty Pilahi Paki’s vision, I would ask the Governor’s Office, Lt. Governor’s Office and Legislature to support a task force that will bring local representatives from Jewish, Muslim, Native Hawaiian, Christian, Hindu and other communities who embrace inclusiveness and coexistence and are willing to work towards the fulfillment of Aunty Pilahi Paki’s vision. Kumu I’ve known have told me of the importance of creating Aloha in one’s own hale before asking others in their hailes to do the same. Once we have done this in Hawaii nei, we will come from a

place of pono and perhaps can extend ourselves to the representatives from the Israeli and Palestinian communities

Please let me know how I can support these efforts.

With Aloha,

Jared "Pukana O Ke Akua Yurow, Psy.D.

Ho'oponopono Student of Aunty Malia Craver

Student of Uncle Pono Shim

[drjyurow@msn.com](mailto:drjyurow@msn.com)

Kailua, HI



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:18:28 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chazz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my support for this bill and for a ceasefire in the Gaza area. For the past half-year, Gazans have been cutoff from accessing food, water, gas, medicine, and more. This lack of access also extends to the hostages still held by Hamas. A ceasefire will ensure the safety of all non-combatants. I hope you will stand with me in prioritizing the lives of these civilians and hostages.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:19:19 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ron Berkovitz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of SCR13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution. This is resolution will harm the Jews who are being harassed in your communities and does not ask for the hostages taken by Hamas to be returned or for Hamas to be removed from power.

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of this Committee,

First, thank you for scheduling this hearing at long last. **This matter is of utmost relevance to the people of Hawai'i, as evidenced by our passion and numbers, and should be voted on with that in mind.**

I am here today to beseech you to vote unequivocally **YES ON THIS MEASURE, SCR13.**

One could write volumes about the shocking real-time documentation of the most savage of atrocities and war crimes being continually perpetrated upon tens of thousands of terrorized Palestinian innocents in Gaza, in the name of Israeli "self-defense." The world stands aghast at such grotesquely unjust bloodshed and wholesale destruction -- and equally, the complete absence of sanction, condemnation, or any meaningful action of deterrence by any Western superpower, with the U.S. leading the charge in dereliction.

And so the question before this Committee today is, what do YOU plan on doing in response to this crisis?

Here is what you will be saying "YES" to, *if you vote "NO" on this resolution today:*

1. On the Hawai'i front: **you'll be saying "Yes" to dismissing your Hawai'i constituents.** Hawai'i at large has mounted a collective plea in this measure that you as Legislators send a strong message to Washington calling for a permanent, immediate and unconditional ceasefire. **We have said in one voice that we decry spending our tax dollars on weapons that will blow apart human beings of all ages, their houses of worship, their institutions, their infrastructure, their historic land and sites, and their remaining lives.** Why would you ignore us when our call is nearly unanimous on this matter?
2. On the national front: you'll be saying YES to dismissing the voice of the nation to which we belong, as we declare the U.S.-Israeli collaborative military regime unacceptable. Are our leaders so driven by elite monied interests that the masses represented have become irrelevant? **Democracy itself is at stake, with your vote on this measure.**
3. You'll be saying YES to another Trump Presidency, because President Biden has no chance of winning the November election given his unconscionable aiding and abetting of Israel. **50% of all Americans, including Republicans, and 75% of Democrats, want to see a permanent and immediate ceasefire demanded of Israel. You have a chance to influence those closest to national policy, with this measure.**
4. **You'll be saying YES to the violation of international law.** In January the ICJ called upon all nation states to desist aiding and abetting a "plausible genocide" being perpetrated by Israel, and the United States has broken international law by disregarding this injunction. The U.S. has done nothing but further furnish Israel with the ammunition it desires to continue its murderous siege, and Hawai'i as a state within a country, has a moral and legal obligation to abide world law and order.
5. You'll be saying YES to genocide of an indigenous population, mirroring the colonial settler and imperialist aspirations of all colonizing, white supremacy-minded ethnic cleansing regimes of the past,

including the Holocaust, the segregated South, apartheid South Africa, and the seizure of Hawai'i's Kingdom to name a tiny handful. Why, in a land of Aloha of all places, would you support or indifferently stand by as a witness to the current catastrophes and crimes unfolding in present time, which feel so close to home in Hawai'i's history?

6. You'll be saying YES to the local as well as world-wide increase in anti-Semitism because Israel has become a hated, pariah state to most people endowed with a conscience, and this is being laid at the feet of Jews everywhere. We of Jewish ancestry, as I am, now carry collective shame and blame that will last in perpetuity. This is dangerous to Jews living in Hawai'i and across the globe, as threats of violence have increased toward Jews.

As a person of Jewish identity, I feel less safe, less respected and less welcome on the world stage than I ever have. **The "defense" of Israel, which is only a cover for all-out annihilation of the Palestinian people and their culture, is an abomination to humanity – and Hawai'i is not separate from humanity even if we're on the other side of the world, with our own woes.**

We in the U.S. have a unique responsibility and role in ending this conflict once and for all. I am outraged that our state hasn't stood up sooner as a beacon of sanity, in the face of national apathy and frank culpability. We need to form a united front between Legislators and Congressional delegation for what is the only path to peace negotiations and justice: **an end to the bombing campaign in Gaza, an immediate and permanent ceasefire.**

It is not too late to stand on the right side of history, Hawai'i leaders! Please, **VOTE YES on this resolution** – which says NO to all of the above dire consequences of this despicable war. Our values as a state, our decency as a country, and our legacy in the sordid acts of an illegal regime hang in the balance.

Mahalo for your hearing this plea and doing the right thing with your YES vote on this measure.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:33:56 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Rosenfeld	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of SCR13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution. This is resolution will harm the Jews who are being harassed in your communities and does not ask for the hostages taken by Hamas to be returned or for Hamas to be removed from power.

As a Jewish person living in Hawai'i, I have never felt nervous or afraid to identify as such. I have appreciated our community's acceptance of all identities and faiths. However, after October 7th, the significant and well-documented rise in antisemitism across the world has come home to Hawai'i. I now hesitate and question whether to identify as Jewish in public spaces. I do not think this is the Aloha that our islands are known for. My fear is that this resloution, if passed in its current form, will increase these dangers.

My opposition to this bill is that it could be harmful to Jews living in Hawai'i, and is not relevant to issues in Hawai'i. I do not believe that it is intended to be antisemetic, but if it passed, would have an unintentional consequence of endangering Jews in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:34:42 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justine Espiritu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my testimony urging you to support a cease fire in Gaza.

The Biden administration should immediately stop sending weapons and money to Israel. The Biden administration should be leveraging US resources and influence to STOP the violence and genocide Israel is perpetuating on Palestinians.

The disregard for Palestinian life is a tragedy that is continuing because the US is allowing it to. We as a democratic country have the power to demand our representatives listen to their constituents and do the right thing and demand Biden and Israel to stop the violence.

While this resolution is just a small step towards ending the war and the genocide happening in our name, it is a step that THIS committee has the opportunity to demonstrate that the people of Hawaii and our legislates and representatives DO have consideration for human life outside of our own communities and families and DO care about calling out injustice and leveraging our power and influence to prevent further death and destruction.

Please do the right thing and support this resolution and urge Biden to call for a cease fire.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:34:56 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lars S Slobodow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of SCR13.

Since 2007, after Israel gave Gaza to the palestinians as a gesture of peace, our ally Israel has been under constant attack from Hamas in Gaza, without majorly responding to the attacks. The attacks have killed thousands of Israeli's and culminated infamously on **October 7th when Hamas broke another ceasefire and butchered over 1,200 people on livestream (including Americans) with guns, knives, blunt objects, and lighting them on fire, after they dismantled Israeli's defenses. I saw videos of young women getting gang raped by Hamas fighters on October 7th that were posted to reddits r/CombatFootage page.**

In the months since, Israel has finally returned fire with the objective of militarily defeating Hamas, so this attack can't happen again. They are close to doing so.

Calling for a permanent ceasefire benefits the islamic terrorist organization of Hamas, allowing it to re-arm. Calling for a ceasefire ignores that Hamas broke a ceasefire on October 7th, and has vowed to keep breaking them. Calling for a ceasefire while ignoring the Jewish Hostages of Hamas who experts say are likely facing repeated rapes and sexual assaults, is an evil thing to do and gives diplomatic cover to America's enemies. I reccomend at the very minimum ammending the language to call for the release of the hostages Hamas took when they started this war.

Thank you for your time.

Very Respectfully,

Lars Slobodow

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:35:21 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel’s system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

I don't think it's that complicated. Bombing keiki is NEVER okay! Let's push for diplomatic solutions that can guide us towards a more just and peaceful world.



Mahalo,

KM

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:36:19 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pamela Singlehurst-Kapisi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

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This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo!

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:37:05 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalia Kapisi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

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Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

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Mahalo!

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:47:28 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Craig Washofsky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition to SCR13 as currently drafted and urge the committee to amend or defer the legislation. While its intent is admirable in that it desires to support a cease fire in Gaza, it makes no mention of the need to have the Israeli hostages released. Nor does it require that Hamas recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist. No one-sided solution will help resolve any conflict, so again I urge this resolution be amended or deferred. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:57:36 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel’s tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel’s 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn’t stop immediately.

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A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes

committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 9:57:55 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Fortier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

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committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.



Statement of  
**Ayman Abdul-Ghani, Cardiothoracic Surgeon**  
**Member of the Palestinian American Medical Association (PAMA)**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**Friday, April 19, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Room 430, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**SCR 13 SD1 (SSCR 3168): URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND MEMBERS OF HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT AN  
IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA.**

Honorable Chair Tam, Honorable Vice Chair Martinez, and esteemed members of the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs, I extend my gratitude for the opportunity to offer testimony on SCR 13 SD1 (SSCR3168) concerning the ceasefire in Gaza.

On March 25, I joined a medical mission arranged by the Palestinian American Medical Association in collaboration with WHO consisting of a team of eleven healthcare professionals from several countries, but mainly the United States, to the European Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza. We made the short journey from the Rafah crossing to Khan Younis, where Gaza European Hospital stands as one of the last remaining semi-functional hospitals for the 2.5 million human beings—half of them children—in the Gaza Strip. As humanitarian physicians, we thought we had seen all manner of cruelty in the world, but none of us had ever experienced anything like what we found when we arrived in Gaza.

I walked through the wards and immediately found evidence of horrifying violence deliberately directed at civilians and even children. A three-year-old boy shot in the head, a 12-year-old girl shot through the chest, an ICU nurse shot through the abdomen, all by some of the best-trained marksmen in the world. Every square inch of the hospital's floor is taken up with makeshift tents where displaced families live, desperate to find some semblance of safety. They are the lucky several hundred who get to live indoors, unlike the tens of thousands sheltering outside on the hospital's grounds.

I was working side-by-side with two American surgeons, both who have worked on more than 40 surgical missions in developing countries on three continents in a combined 57 years of volunteering. They were present at Ground Zero on 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, the Boston Marathon bombing, and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. They have worked in the deprivation of

southern Zimbabwe and the horrors of the war in Ukraine. They told me that none of their experiences have compared to the atrocities we witnessed in Gaza.

The United States has heavily funded and overwhelmingly armed what is called “the occupation” of Palestine, but the term is misleading. Israel’s first president, Chaim Weizmann, declared that the existence of the Palestinians was simply “a matter of no consequence.” Thirty years later, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told the Israeli cabinet that the Palestinians “would continue to live like dogs...and we will see where this process leads.”

Now we know: This is where it leads. It leads to Gaza European Hospital, and to a group of healthcare workers realizing that the blood on the floor of the trauma bay and the operating room is dripping from our own hands. We Americans provide the crucial funding, weapons, and diplomatic support for a genocidal assault on a helpless population.

I continue to hope against hope that American politicians, and especially President Joe Biden, will abandon their support for Israel’s war on the Palestinians. If they do not, then we have learned nothing from the history of the past hundred years.

No conflict of any size in history has ever been this deadly to journalists, healthcare workers, or paramedics. Indeed, my entire team and I lived in constant fear that Israel would attack Gaza European Hospital directly, as it has with so many others. The complete and utter destruction of al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, along with the killing, kidnapping, and torture of the healthcare staff, only heightened this sense of dread. **I was there when the World Central Kitchen workers were killed by Israeli drones.**

In conclusion, I implore for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the siege on Gaza. The Government of Israel must cease unlawful attacks on civilians, and the Gazans civilians and children must be allowed to have access to food and medicine. We as the international community must condemn attacks on children, doctors, hospitals, churches, mosques and schools unequivocally and demand accountability for violations of international law. I respectfully urge your esteemed committee to consider SCR 13 SD1 with utmost compassion and urgency, recognizing its potential to contribute towards peace and justice in the region. Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:03:33 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joyce Oleshansky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of SCR13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution. This is resolution will harm the Jews who are being harassed in your communities and does not ask for the hostages taken by Hamas to be returned or for Hamas to be removed from power.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:23:44 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's necessary to include that this conflict began when Hamas broke a ceasefire and attacked israel and took their hostages. In addition, it should demand that the hostages are released in exchange for the ceasefire.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:28:25 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever.

That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Please pass SCR13 unamended. This is urgent as a ceasefire is long overdue and it is crucial that we stop this genocide, stop the killing of innocent Palestinians, and put all efforts towards sending aid to those in Gaza.

Thank you for your time.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:31:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dianne Deauna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the CAI Committee, and Chair Rep Adrian Tam,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. **Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.**

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

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**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:31:21 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kahiau Snyder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o piha.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:33:22 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Shiozaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

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This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

As a Jewish American and one of your constituents, I cannot overstate how devastated to continue to hear miserronesouly that criticism of this genocide is somehow anti-semetic. Palestinians are our relatives, our kin, peoples who have lived in the region together for thousands of years. The genocide of our Palestinian relatives will NEVER bring peace or safety to Jewish people. I also am Nikkei, and my grandparents were illegally incarcerated in WWII. The trauma that is still present in my family today is palpable. We must end US paychecks funding this genocide. The vast majority of Americans want ceasefire. I never thought ending such a horrific genocide that we've watche unfold before our eyes the last SIX months could be considered controversial. There is indeed so much history in this region for thousands of years, but this is not complicated. The war did not start October 7th. There has always been Jewish opposition to Zionism and always will be, and I am coming here to state very strongly here that I am with them. I urge you

to use everything in your powers to end this bloodshed and do your diligence to represent the vast majority who wish you to do as such.

Sincerely,

Allison Shiozaki

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:33:58 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support as I believe this truly represents the sentiment of Hawaii's population - the Aloha State.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:44:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Mukae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha CAI Committee Members,

Like many others, I am writing this testimony in strong support of passing SCR13 unamended.

It takes a quick Google search to see the numbers of the Palestinians massacred since the fall of 2023. Perhaps the search isn't even necessary since many other testimonies have likely reiterated the number of dead, families and children that we are mourning.

And the number of graves, our grief, and our mourning will continue until a permanent ceasefire is called. The violence in Gaza shows no signs of stopping and basic needs - food, water, shelter - are not being met because of the Israeli armed military blockade against humanitarian aid. Can you imagine if our grocery imports were blocked from being delivered to us for months on end? How many people would suffer? How many children?

If a ceasefire is pushed by the members of this committee, aid and critical supplies could be delivered in this humanitarian crisis to provide some relief after six months of suffering. Even thousands of miles away, it feels inexcusable to do nothing when something could be done to halt all of this. Please use the power of your office. Please use your voice as a megaphone for your constituents who are sickened by the violence. Please use your power to advocate for those who are Palestinian and have family there. Please push the federal representatives to demand a ceasefire from Israel.

Mahalo for your time.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:04:14 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mareva Minerbi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:09:57 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jordan May	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Good morning. As your constituent who is devastated and angered by the ongoing mass violence that Palestinians have faced for the past six months and for the seventy plus years before that, I feel it's my responsibility to be here today to urge the committee to pass the ceasefire resolution. As people currently living on land that was stolen from its native people and given to foreign settlers, it is especially imperative that we recognize the injustice in Gaza and act upon it. We inhabit a land whose people have been forcibly removed, who suffer from environmental injustice and who have been stripped of food sovereignty, all issues that the Palestinian people have also long endured. Fully backed by the history of the people that you serve, it's time that Hawaii's leadership comes together to say a resounding "no" to the endorsement and funding of this genocide.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:09:30 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diliaur Tellei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Diliaur Tellei and live in Makiki. I 100% strongly SUPPORT this resolution calling for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza for all the reasons outlined in the resolution and more and strongly urge the committee to pass it. We know this is a genocide, we know that US federal leadership is turning a blind eye to Israel's bombardment and this is starting to look like it will turn into a third world war. This policy stance is ridiculous and we need our representatives to amplify the voice of their people who are calling for an end to the genocide and a permanent ceasefire.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:19:56 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nina Mujkic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Long story short. Do we need another war? Do we need to spend more money on wars and not our own? Aren't we tired of fighting? I was a part of genocide in 1992 Bosnia. I know what a genocide looks like and feels like and this is it. Please listen to your constituents. Enough is enough! Are we all driven by the power of money? Imagine Hawai'i being the first state to call for a ceasefire, imagine the aloha we'd receive from millions. Aren't you all tired of listening to us? Aren't you all tired of watching us beg? We are humans, who feel, and right now we feel like nobody is listening to us. We are exhausted from watching babies, children, and women in pieces on social media. We are tired of watching the IDF mock and make fun of Palestinians, but know, even though we're tired we will never give up until a full permanent ceasefire is passed and war criminals are brought to justice.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:27:29 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Ochoa	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am **testifying in strong support of SCR13** and deeply urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please bravely and compassionately stand with your constituents by raising your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federally elected representatives to leverage the U.S. influences over Israel to bring the horrific violence in Gaza to an end.

Since October 7, 2023 almost 34,000 people have been killed. Over a hundred journalists and over 400 medical workers have been murdered. Children are eating mud paste with what little limbs they have left because not only are they attempting to dodge bombs and bullets but they barely have any access to food. Entire infrastructures have been destroyed and more than 281,000 tons of carbon dioxide has been generated from the bombings and ground attacks. With that much harmful impact, how sick of a society do we have to be that a CEASEFIRE is too controversial to support. How can you pretend that Aloha means anything to any of you if you aren't even courageous enough to say, "enough." If the statistics don't shake you to your core, I hope empathy will. I hope when you watch the videos of people being blown to pieces, children screaming for their murdered parents, people dying while their bones protrude out of their skin, and families literally running for their life that you see the faces of all your loved ones. I hope the image and screams are forever burned into your memory so that we truly wont ever let this happen again. So if you were planning to oppose this bill, I sincerely ask you to reflect on why supporting a bill urging for a CEASEFIRE to such devastation would be too hard for you. If you cannot find the courage and moral compass required to denounce such depravity then I ask you to reflect on how history will look at your cowardice.

If you are voting in support of this bill, I want to sincerely thank you for giving me some necessary hope in humanity. But more importantly, I want to thank you for the impact of your vote. There is a reason Martin Luther King Jr said he looked to Hawai'i for inspiration and as a noble example. I hope as representatives of Hawai'i all of you strive to always be the *glowing daybreak amongst the dark midnight of man's inhumanity to man*. Thank you for your time.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 11:30:06 PM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

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committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 12:08:23 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong **opposition** of SCR13 and urge the Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs to **amend** or **defer** this resolution. Calling for a ceasefire without calling for Hamas to disarm, is aligning with a **TERRORIST** organization whose stated mission is to kill every last Jew in Israel and the entire world, and to destroy all free society.

We had a ceasefire on Oct 6th and the morning of Oct. 7th Hamas broke it. Hamas, which controls Gaza and ruins the lives of Palestinians, has violated over a dozen ceasefires in previous conflicts. Why is this council so eager to help Hamas and further their agenda?

For some reason, 90% of the testimonies here have been about a one-sided ceasefire rather than the immediate return of Israeli hostages. Israel has both the right and obligation to fight until every hostage is freed and comes home.

This councils spent weeks wordsmithing this non-binding resolution rather than working on local issues that affect each and every one of us. This unhealthy obsession with Israel needs to end.

I urge our local leaders to veto this non-binding resolution that has the single and sole goal of making me, my fiancé, my parent, my grandparents, my neighbors and friends feel uncomfortable.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 12:38:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Miya DeVoogd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution.

Please stand with your thousands of constituents to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the US' influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end. America has the most power to stop the massacres of innocent families. If we allow American politicians to continue supporting a genocide, we are complicit. Biden has even said that Israel's response is over the top but continues blindly sending them weapons. Ceasefire is the bare minimum. Let families grieve, receive food, medicine, bury their family members with a proper burial, find each other, flee, get clean water, get surgery, go back to school... Children do not have to die. We are not only letting them die--our American politicians are enabling it. Please do not be one of those politicians.

Mahalo, Miya DeVoogd

96815

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 2:03:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end. Please stand on the side of humanity,

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 3:35:29 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

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Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

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committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Mahalo for your support,

Noelani Ahia



Friday, April 19, 2024

TO: Hawai'i State House Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs

**Support for SCR13 and Urging the Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza**

Aloha mai kākou e CAI Committee,

My name is Kyla-Marie K.T. Kauhahao and I am a kanaka maoli youth of Hawai'i. I am currently a graduate student at UH Hilo, as well as an civically engaged youth of Hawai'i. I wear a lot of hats, but the hat I wear right now as I write to you is the hat of a concerned youth of Hawai'i, and I plead with the honorable members of this committee to hear those of us concerned about what is going on in occupied Palestine right now. To hear me.

When all of this started on October 7th, I would not understand anything that was happening. All I knew is that somewhere else in the Middle East was bombed, and that there were claims about babies, beheadings, and sexual assaults, all of that. For a couple of days or so, I stayed out of the mess that was social media. And then around the 16 or 17 of October, I saw one video that would fundamentally change my life. In this video was a man, carrying what looks to be a white and blue plastic shopping bags in a chaos of people and ambulances walking towards a tent with people laying down inside. It took about five times watching that video before I realized what was happening.

In the video, a Palestinian father is carrying what remains of his children in those bags to a medical tent of some sort. The names of the children are Omar and Marah. And their story is

only one of thousands. There are videos after videos of months of destruction and horror all which are of Israel's bombardment of Gaza. But in this video in particular, in this video that had gone viral just before I saw it, you can see one of the children's hands and forearm sticking out of the bag, waving around as if waving to the people for their attention, to tell us even in their death what was going on. Since that video, I have not looked away.

And in not looking away, I have seen a lot of things that no person my age should ever see. I have seen the decaying bodies of babies left behind in hospitals that were insured upon by Israeli soldiers. I have watched the active death of multiple people play out on video as they are shot and killed by Israeli snipers when they were simply walking in the streets to get home from being flour and water or when they were trying to help another person who was shot, ending up in them all being killed. I have watched Journalist Wael Al Dahdouh mourn the death of his wife, son, daughter, and grandchild in the early days of the genocide; only to then months later be shot and injured in an almost fatal attack that killed his cameraman, Samer Abu Daqqa; to only then lose another child, Hamaza Al Dahdouh, and then barely weeks later leave Gaza because of his injuries and because his life was being threatened.

There are so many more stories...so many more instances captured before the world on Tiktok and Instagram and Twitter, now known as X, that somehow a good portion of the world never saw. They did not see the doctors who had to do surgery on their own children without anesthesia as they screamed in pain and agony, having to amputate their own children's limbs and putting rods in their broken bones. Many of their children did not make it. They did not see the mothers holding their dead children wrapped up for burial, many of the mothers refusing to

let go, needing to hug their children one last time, to feel the weight of them in their arms. Many of their children were buried in mass graves. They did not see the fathers screaming into the rubble, trying to find them and pleading with God to let their children be alive under the rubble, to let their children hear their voice and know they were coming for them. Many of their children were recovered dead and mangled.

I live now with the many stories and videos burned in my mind, haunting me, and I have no clue how the rest of the world are also not haunted by this atrocity. Somehow, a big portion of the world did not see these stories and experience them across the world almost simultaneously as they were happening Gaza like I and many other youth worldwide did. I learned through this that Gaza and Hawai'i are about 12 hours apart, and so I would stay up late at night doing homework, waiting for the news of what happened and who might have died while I was at school. I would go to bed, fearing how much larger the death toll would be, and how much more horrific the deaths would have been. I still do this. And in the last six to seven months, I have shifted my life dramatically, because of all of this. So much personally for me, as well as for the youth around the world and the United States has changed...but my environment, my home, and the legislation of Hawai'i doesn't reflect those changes, and it needs to start reflecting those changes.

That is why I am writing to all of you today to plead with you all not to look away. Look beyond mainstream media, look deeper than what is coming up on the explorer pages and the For You pages. Turn to Motaz, Bisan, Plestia, Wael, and the countless other civilian journalists who were in and many who remain in Gaza, and witness for yourselves the atrocities of this genocide.

Because it is not a war, but a genocide. And though the SCR13 looks only to Gaza, I urge you all to educate yourselves on what has been going on in the West Bank, an area Hamas does not operate, and in the surrounding areas of Gaza and the West Bank. Look beyond October 7th and find out what happened on October 4th at Al-Aqsa Mosque with Israeli Settlers. Look what happened in 2021, 2020, 2014, 2012, 2008. Context in history is everything.

I beg of you all to makawalu this situation, to look at it with eight eyes, from multiple perspectives, and to hear the side of the Palestinians, the side that the West is not on. Please, please, please, hear us, and hear the Palestinians. Please urge president Biden and the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation to support and immediate ceasefire. As a kanaka maoli youth, I beg this of you all. Mahalo for you time.

Me ke aloha,

Kyla-Marie K.T. Kauhahao

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 4:56:39 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jo Dunne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13. The ongoing crisis in Gaza has continued to take the lives of Israeli and Palestinian civilians, most devastatingly the lives of innocent children. Many other testimonies have presented the statistics on death rates and lasting humanitarian impacts; I need not repeat them here.

One might object to a ceasefire because of Israel's right to defend itself against terrorist organizations, and the possibility that Hamas's violence will increase in the long run if there is a ceasefire. I urge you to consider the fact that Israel's attacks on civilians and vital infrastructure such as hospitals and schools are a violation of international law, and this outweighs the right to self-defense. Additionally, Hamas has shown willingness to negotiate the release of hostages in exchange for a ceasefire/prisoner exchange. The United States' support of this would allow the opportunity for such peaceful negotiations to take place.

One might also object to this resolution on the grounds that Hawai'i's calling for a ceasefire would only be symbolic and would not make a real impact. Although this may be true, the resolution would at least send a strong message to our national leaders and to the public of where Hawai'i stands. Even if raising awareness is the best we can do, we still have a moral responsibility to do the best we can. Consider how in 2017, when President Trump withdrew from the Paris Agreement, Hawai'i immediately passed legislation objecting to this and committing itself to reach the Paris Agreement's climate goals regardless, despite being a small state that could not make much of a difference on its own. This inspired many other states to do the same, eventually putting the presidential office under enough pressure that the Biden Administration re-joined the Paris Agreement. Hawai'i has been, and can still be, a leader for global justice and sustainability in this country.

Regardless of our individual beliefs about the validity of the State of Israel and land rights in Gaza, we should all be able to agree that the killing of innocent people needs to be stopped. U.S. support of a ceasefire would be the most effective way to accomplish this.

Mahalo for your consideration of this important resolution.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 5:43:24 AM


Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melissa tomlinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only


Comments:

It's a shame it has taken this long to have this Resolution to support. I'm so grateful to the people of Hawai'i who have continuously shown up to stand against the ethnic cleansing and genocide of Palestinian people of which is being brought before you today. I embolden all who have a presumed authority to decide on this Resolution today to listen, hear, and consider the Palestinian testimony with earnest. You have the most responsibility to them at this moment. It is in these moments that the most basic and and valued right be bestowed for the Palestinian people, LIFE. We can not fail them as that would also mean failing all of humanity. It really does. I'm not sure someone will share todays update with you so you can find it here: Day 195

- 71 Palestinians killed, 106 injured in last 24 hours

 Israel received intel that the International Criminal Court (ICC) may soon issue arrest warrants for Netanyahu & other leaders for war crimes. Israel is worried & lobbying to prevent it, hoping Germany & UK will help pressure the ICC

UN US vetoed Palestine's application for UN membership at the UNSC

 30 bodies uncovered at an al-Shifa Hospital mass grave deliberately hidden by Israel. The bodies show signs of forced executions. Terrifyingly, it's still unknown what happened to about 1,000 medical staff and journalists who were in the hospital when Israeli forces entered

- Israeli forces abduct 40 people in the West Bank yesterday, on Palestinian Prisoner's Day
- Israel withdraws from Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp after brutal days-long attack, leaving 13,000 housing units destroyed, 75 Palestinians killed, 348 injured, and 100 missing under rubble
- Israeli attacks on Rafah today killed 11+ people including 5 kids

The amount the U.S. has vetoed in the UN, against the will of majority of the population, in the last six months is disturbing and disgusting. It is crazy learning about how AIPAC is funding

politicians, a foreign government paying politicians after our tax dollars from our work have been taken from us and then given to Israel in the form of weapons, education, healthcare, and "cash". Seems like a serious conflict of interest and more like a giant money laundering scheme. Not in our name we will fight for justice and human rights. Eww also training police over there in a militarized, combative way seems like a recipe for holocaust disaster. Who will they being using such tactics on? Look at what is happening to Students at Columbia right now. The future is looking fascist at the moment. You can do something.

This is about doing what is right, standing up for humanity and bringing an end to this brutal violence. Support this Resolution! Free Palestine!!

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 5:55:42 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Josh Umland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Josh Umland, I am a pediatric resident at Kapi'olani Medical Center. I am also a very proud Jew and a Zionist. I am writing you to urge that this bill be amended or deferred at this time. While I do overall agree with some of the sentiments here and ultimately would support a two state solution. This bill and its current form does not mention the atrocities of October 7, which was the bloodiest day in my peoples' history since the Holocaust. Nor is there any mention of returning the hostages who were taken on that day. There is no clear mention of how an exceedingly evil terrorist organization Hamas is ultimately making this conflict worse. I want to note that while I refer to myself as a Zionist, I do so as someone who support Israel's right to exist and defend itself. I have the ability to be critical of the Israeli government, and I do not fully support what they have done in response to the conflict in Gaza; however, the language and the overall attitude of this bill is exceedingly one-sided, and misses many of the nuances in this conflict. It is an expression from halfway across the world of a group of individuals not being able to fully comprehend the situation. I am urging you to change the wording of resolution or defer it at this time while seeking to better understand this incredibly complex conflict in a more productive manner.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 5:58:50 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
siegal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition of SCR13 and urge your committee to amend or defer this resolution. This is resolution will harm the Jews who are being harassed in your communities and does not ask for the hostages taken by Hamas to be returned or for Hamas to be removed from power.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 6:13:43 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Loke Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

Mahalo nui, Loke Davis

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 6:25:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynda Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is absolutely essential that Hawaii stand up for peace and aloha and demand that the United States Demand that Israel stop their attack on innocent Palestinians. There must be a cease-fire now immediately. How many children need to be murdered while playing foosball? We are watching a genocide unfold and it is the responsibility of Hawaii as the uphold of aloha to try to stop it.

Mahalo.

lynda

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 6:37:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou!

I offer this greeting in the most sincere way possible. Not the way it's offered at luau for tourist visitng Hawai'i but in the way a kupuna or a keiki uses it. With honesty and accountability to what it means to be in relationship with another human, to experience and be responsible for holding their breath, their heart, and their existence. In away that acknowledges the interconnectedness and dependency between us both.

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to please pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. In recent years, the legislature has been found to waver from care of its constituents and fulfillment of their duties under the preciding laws instead buckling to the interest of investors and those with deep pockets who benefit from the exploitation of Hawai'i and it's people. This is an opportunity to let democracy lead and what that means is to let the people lead who have come consistently come out to say no more genocide!

Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice demand our federal elected representative leverage the US influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end. Please truly be aloha and acknowledge deeply how interconnected we are as humans of this place and how we are called to care for one another.

As an ancestral descendant of Hawai'i pae 'āina whose family survives colonial violence till this day, as a 4th generation Hawaiian homesteader, as the mother of three children who has watched for more than 6 months the terror Israel has committed, and as a human who strives to let their humanity lead: I cry with all of me "Ceasefire now" and "Let Palestine Live" and "Pass SCR13"!

Mahalo,

Noel

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 6:40:26 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mia Ford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. More than 5,000 Palestinian Men and their sons have been imprisoned and held captive since Oct 7 - these civilians of war are being treated worse than dogs. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements. In addition, aid workers and journalists are being targeted as enemies of war. This is unacceptable. The United States is ignoring the rest of its world allies and its people - We do not support Israel and its mass propaganda campaign to destroy an entire population and their history.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

Thank you for your time,

Mia Wilson

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 6:50:53 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Flanders	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Honorable Senators,

I am here to testify in support of SRC 13,

and in doing so remind you, that **genocide is the gravest of crimes under international law** and that the United States has a duty under Article 1 of the 1948 Geneva Convention, of which it is a signature, to prevent its acts.

Quoting The US Center of Constitutional Rights, I remind you that “whether a State has breached its duty to prevent [genocide] depends on the State’s ability to effectively influence the actions of the people likely to commit, or already committing, genocide. **The United States has tremendous influence on the actions of the Israeli government, and the United States — and U.S. citizens, including you and up to the President — can be held responsible for their role in furthering genocide.**

As representatives of the people of these Hawaiian Islands, to not call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire will not only cause you to be complicit but will as well burden our citizenry whom you represent with the horrific unconscionable crime of complicity in the genocide of the indigenous Palestinian people by the colonial apartheid state of Israel. This is a burden of conscience and heart that shall not be borne by a people who already wear the scars of colonial theft and oppression.

Honorable senators, I urge you to vote for SRC-13. To not do so would make a mockery of the rule of international law which applies to everyone, friend or foe. These laws were carefully established in the 1948 Geneva convention following the heinous genocide we know as the holocaust. Laws put into place to bring about justice and peace. Laws that protect the rights of children, to live free of fear, pain and suffering.

Laws that bind you to stop the genocide of a people by calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire of Gaza by Israel.

Mahalo nui loa for taking my testimony from Hana, Maui. My name is Kathleen Flanders

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:03:03 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elaine London	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Jewish-American citizen of the USA living in the state of Hawaii I support an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:11:25 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

RE: Testimony to the Hawai'i State Legislature in Support of SR6

Honorable Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature,

I am writing to urge your support for SR6, which calls upon members of Hawai'i's congressional delegation to endorse the Ceasefire in Gaza Resolution introduced by United States Congresswoman Cori Bush. The situation in Gaza demands immediate attention and action due to the egregious violations of international law and humanitarian principles. Here are some key points highlighting the urgency of this matter:

**1. Deliberate Targeting of Innocent Lives:** Israel's targeting of civilian infrastructure and densely populated areas in Gaza constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. Article 51(2) of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions explicitly prohibits attacks against civilians and civilian objects, which are not being used for military purposes. The loss of innocent lives in Gaza suggests a deliberate disregard for these legal obligations.

**2. High Casualty Rate among Civilians:** The disproportionate use of force by Israel has resulted in a high number of civilian casualties, including women and children. This violates the principles of distinction and proportionality enshrined in international humanitarian law. According to the Geneva Conventions, parties to a conflict must distinguish between civilians and combatants, and their attacks must not cause excessive harm to civilians compared to the anticipated military advantage gained.

**3. Orphaned Children and Humanitarian Crisis:** Israel's blockade of Gaza, which restricts access to essential supplies such as food, medications, and medical equipment, constitutes collective punishment and is prohibited under Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The blockade exacerbates the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, leading to a severe shortage of basic necessities and leaving thousands of children orphaned and vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

**4. Obstruction of Humanitarian Aid:** Israel's restrictions on the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza violate Article 23 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which obligates parties to a conflict to allow the free passage of humanitarian supplies. By obstructing the delivery of essential supplies, including food, medicine, and fuel, Israel is exacerbating the suffering of the civilian population and contributing to a man-made humanitarian disaster.

**5. Systematic Targeting of Healthcare Facilities:** The deliberate targeting of hospitals and healthcare facilities by Israel constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions. Article 18 of the Fourth Geneva Convention explicitly protects medical personnel, hospitals, and other medical facilities from attack, and parties to a conflict must take all feasible precautions to avoid harming them. By targeting healthcare infrastructure, Israel is

denying civilians access to life-saving medical treatment, in violation of their fundamental right to healthcare.

**6. Moral Imperative for Action:** As citizens of Hawai'i, we have a moral obligation to speak out against the violations of international law and humanitarian principles occurring in Gaza. Neutrality is not an option when innocent lives are at stake, and we must stand on the side of justice and humanity. By supporting SR6, we can send a clear message to Hawai'i's congressional delegation that we demand an immediate ceasefire and an end to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

**7. Historical Parallels:** The situation in Gaza evokes memories of past atrocities, such as the Holocaust, where innocent civilians were targeted and deprived of their basic rights. Just as the world came together to condemn and address these injustices, we must act decisively to end the suffering in Gaza and hold those responsible for human rights violations accountable under international law.

In conclusion, I urge you to support SR6 and demonstrate our commitment to upholding international law and humanitarian principles. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Laith Enani, MD

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:14:02 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Blake Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements. By international UN law, we cannot fund war crimes yet tax dollars that could go towards rebuilding Lahaina or towards housing, healthcare, and infrastructure are funding billions of dollars of weapons sales.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards. A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues. America should not be drawn

into a larger regional conflict in unwavering support of Israel. It is only through a ceasefire and the blocking of weapons sales that our government can stop the horrible violence that has killed over ten thousand children. It is your kuleana as public officials to protect life, not end it.

Mahalo nui loa.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:14:06 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emanuel Pangilinan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ceasefire now so humans can live! This bill is vital to stopping the destruction of the precious life. It would be just the beginning of what we can offer to the people of Palestine. They are starving and suffering but this will help to end the bombing and destruction right away. Please support this bill. Thank you.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:25:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alejandra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

My name is Alejandra Rivas and I am testifying in strong, unwavering, support of SCR13. The unparalleled genocide of the Palestinian people is devastating. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 40,000 civilians have been killed since Oct 7, and the majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000 have been wounded and many thousands more are missing under the rubble of Gaza.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving 2 million people in the Gaza Strip starving and dying a slow painful death. This violent genocide which stems from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse and create even more suffering if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

Because of the U.S.'s funding, participation, and deliverance of weapons of mass destruction, you have me and all other taxpayers complicit in this genocide, as it is our tax dollars that are used to fund this attack on humanity. I cannot continue to fund this genocide and soak my hands in more and more blood. There needs to be a ceasefire now. As well as putting an end to the destruction, a ceasefire will also provide opportunities for independent international investigations to take place into the countless war crimes committed by Israel and the U.S. government in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

Tackling the root causes of this genocide, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.

This is why I strongly support SCR13. Don't allow me and yourselves to continue to fund and be complicit in this genocide. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:38:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janice Staab	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have a unique opportunity to let our federal government know that we do not support the killing of and starvation of thousands of people in Palestine. The US continues to be the ONLY nation in the world not to support a ceasefire so now it is up to our states to show them what needs to be done. Please listen to the people of Hawaii when we say enough is enough.

Mahalo,

Janice Staab



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:43:04 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juju Juju	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I'm writing to you on Palestinian prisoners day. April 17 was adopted by the Palestinian National Council in 1947 as a day to honor the thousands of Palestinian detainees held in Israeli prisons and to support their right to freedom. Today the number of Palestinians in Israeli prisons has reached more than 9,500, and these numbers (which include women and children) do not include detainees from the Gaza Strip, who are subject to enforced disappearance. In February the Geneva-based Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor shared testimonies of recently released Palestinian detainees reporting that the Israeli army allowed groups of Israeli civilians to witness the detainees being tortured, and to film the crimes on their phones.

On social media, videos (created by IDF soldiers and settlers) periodically come out showing large groups of Palestinians being blindfolded, handcuffed, and tortured. We are witnessing horrors resembling those of the Holocaust. But unfortunately this is nothing new. Israel has been torturing, starving to death, and killing Palestinian prisoners from medical neglect for over 75 years. Before October 7th, Gaza was already one giant concentration camp, holding hostage 2.5 million people who did not have access to enough drinking water, food, or medical supplies. Neighborhoods never knew when they might be bombed. From 2008-2022 Israel waged four wars, killing thousands of Palestinians. Every generation in Gaza has grown up seeing loved ones shot, imprisoned, or buried under rubble. Now the whole world is seeing the genocide being committed by Israel.

Since Oct. 7th over 33,899 people in Gaza have been murdered by the Israeli military. This includes more than 13,800 children and 8,400 women. Another 8,000+ are missing, and more than 76,664 are seriously injured. And the Israel bombs keep dropping. Over half the Gaza population is experiencing catastrophic famine, while Israel continues to kill humanitarian aid workers, and block aid from reaching the starving people.

Please urge your committee to pass SCR13 **unamended**. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to halt the mounting death toll in Gaza, and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip. Please take a stand to let the people of Gaza live.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:44:14 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Haynes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

The unparalleled escalation of the conflict between Israel and Hamas and other armed groups has taken a devastating toll on civilians. The level of casualties is unprecedented. Some 33,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed since Oct 7 with another 7,000 missing and presumed dead. The majority of them are women and children. Another 70,000+ have been wounded and left with horrific, permanent disfigurements.

Israel's tightened siege of Gaza has blocked the entry of goods, including water, food and fuel leaving the 2 million people in the Gaza Strip struggling to survive. The humanitarian catastrophe stemming from Israel's 16-year-long illegal blockade on the occupied Gaza Strip will only get worse if the fighting doesn't stop immediately.

A ceasefire would put a stop to unlawful attacks by all parties, halt the mounting death toll in Gaza and enable aid agencies to get life-saving aid, water and medical supplies into the Strip to address the staggering levels of human suffering. It will also allow hospitals to receive life-saving medicines, fuel and equipment they desperately need and to repair damaged wards.

A ceasefire would also provide opportunities to negotiate the release of hostages detained in Gaza and for independent international investigations to take place into the war crimes committed by all parties in order to end long-standing impunity, which will continue to breed further atrocities.

This conflict now threatens to spill over into a wider, regional war. The best way to prevent this is to bring the genocide in Gaza to an end. Tackling the root causes of this conflict, by dismantling Israel's system of apartheid imposed on Palestinians is now more urgent than ever. That cannot be accomplished as long as the violence continues.



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:45:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

Please support this Resolution.

Mahalo,

Susan Stayton, Lawai, Kauai, HI

April 19, 2024  
Leatuvai Hirata

### Testimony In Support of SCR13

I am testifying in strong support of SCR13 and urge your committee to pass this important resolution unamended. This is critical to ensuring its final, official adoption by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Please stand with your constituents and raise your powerful, institutional voice to demand our federal elected representatives leverage the U.S.'s influence over Israel to bring the violence in Gaza to an end.

My testimony is based on values, morals and ethics. If all of you value life, then it is your moral and ethical duty to support this very important resolution unamended. The damage caused by Israel upon Gaza has harmed innocent Palestinians. The elderly, grandfathers and grandmothers, parents, and children and babies. Israel is killing Palestinians. Now, imagine yourselves being a resident of Palestine. I bet you all would wish someone would come and save you and put an end to your nightmare because you are helpless. I bet you would be praying every minute and all day to God to help and save you and your family, right? If you vote to support the ceasefire, your conscious guilt would be free, and you would not be burdened too much because you did something about it. You helped answer an elderly, parent, or child's silent prayer to come and save them. By supporting this critical resolution, Hawaii residents join you in silent prayers for a ceasefire and save the innocent Palestinians. If you do not support this Resolution, you will become part of the problem. That means you agree and support America in participating in genocide of Gaza. Hawaii is unfortunately part of the United States of America, but history painfully connects us to Palestinians. Hawaii has personal connections with Palestinians and if you all do not know this fact, please check out "*We are all Palestinians' in the face of colonial fascism*" and "*Palestine for Hawai'i*" that were referenced by Associate Professor Ranaka Barakat of History at Birzeit University and Birzeit University Museum in the Occupied West Bank. If Palestinians stood with Hawaii in their time of need during the Mauna Kea telescope conflict and most recent the Lahaina Fire, it is because they heard our prayers. I urge you to pass the Resolution for a ceasefire for Palestinians sake.

Thank you,

Leatuvai Hirata

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:55:54 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - forgive me, as this is my second submission in favor of this testimony. However, I thought this might be the last opportunity I would have to share my thoughts on the indiscriminate and inhumane use of Artificial Intelligence in Warfare - for which our US government has already taken a stance to limit.

I had drafted the following resolution for consideration by the Democratic Party of Hawaii, but (per usual) procrastinated writing and distributing it to members in time to get enough signatures for deliberation at our State Convention. Instead, I feel better knowing my thoughts are included in some form of public record.

**I also want to thank this committee and the House for hearing this measure. I think giving the people the opportunity to express their views is extremely important and healing - and also very democratic. Regardless of your stance.**

With Aloha, please find my resolution asking for a moratorium on AI in Gaza below:

~~~~~

***Urging President Biden and Congress to Call for a Moratorium on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Targeting of Bombs in Gaza***

***Whereas, in February 2023, the United States made a [Political Declaration on the Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy](#), endorsed by at least 54 countries; and***

***Whereas, The Israeli military has employed AI software known as “Lavender” to select over 30,000 alleged militants – in their homes in Gaza with their families of multiple women and children – as targets for unguided “dumb bombs” - with a 10% false positive rate; and***

***Whereas, Lavender is administered with minimal human input and oversight, allowing military operatives just 20 seconds to evaluate to verify a target’s gender, and***

***Whereas, Investigative journalists report that the Israeli military has determined it acceptable to kill up to 15 to 20 civilians for every junior Hamas operative targeted, and on occasion, more than 100 civilians for commanders; and***

*Whereas, The use of this emerging AI, combined with Israel's lax rules of military engagement has fueled staggering rates of civilian harm in Gaza, resulting in the death of at least 33,000 Palestinians in retaliation for a Hamas attack that killed 1,200 Israelis in October 2023; and*

*Whereas, "Lavender" AI continues to increase the pace of targeting in war and expanding the scope of war to a pool of potential targets, including more junior operatives, making target verification and other precautionary obligations required under international law much harder to fulfill; and*

*Whereas, This increased tempo increases the risk that civilians will be misidentified and mistakenly targeted, contributing further to the already enormous civilian harm; and*

*Whereas, Calls from the international community have deemed these bombing practices War Crimes and Violations of International Law; and*

*Whereas, Israel's interpretation of international law is considered by the international community as much more permissive than how other countries interpret basic principles like proportionality; and*

*Whereas, AI has no innate morality or value system but the US Government leadership is in a position to engage in moral analyses and free will to condemn and otherwise prevent machine-generated decisions that undermine our humanity; and now therefore be it*

*Resolved, I Request President Biden and Congress Call for a Moratorium on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Targeting of Bombs in Gaza; and be it*

*Ordered, . . . submitting this on SCRI3 so that my pleas are included in the public record.*



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:59:20 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| rose elovitz        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Hello CAI Committee, my name is Rose Elovitz and I am submitting testimony once again to demand your support for Palestinian livelihoods by passing SCR13 today unamended. As you listen to the testimony submitted today, the death toll quickly increases to 34,000 in Gaza. Innocent people continue to be slaughtered, starved, and tortured under the lie of national security and self defense.

Your inaction as representatives thus far disgusts me. It has taken far too long for SCR13 to reach a hearing. You all sit in positions of power to amplify the voices of the people demanding an end to this genocide, from where I stand I see people who are too fearful of damaging their political clout to carrying out the roles and responsibilities of a representative. I remind you that the lives of over 1.7 million people in Gaza surviving a genocide cannot wait any longer for your support. I call upon you to reject arbitrary fears and fight for the genuine peace and security of all peoples in Palestine by voting yes on SCR13 today.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:59:28 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Denise Kaufman      | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

There are 133 hostages remaining in Gaza – mostly civilians kidnapped on October 7th from their homes or from the Nova Music Festival. The youngest hostage was captured with his mother and toddler brother at 9 months old. The eldest are in their 90's, kupuna brutally taken often after witnessing their families murdered in front of them. The Red Cross has not visited any of them and the boxes of needed medicines that Hamas agreed to deliver to them were found unopened in a Hamas tunnel. The hostages come from 17 countries and are Jews, Christians, Muslims and Hindus. There are six American hostages. There is evidence that the girls and women are being sexually assaulted and many of the hostages have been tortured. Some have been murdered while in captivity.

Hamas has rejected a number of ceasefire offers, the most recent being last Saturday, April 13, 2024. And continues to launch rockets into Israel.

There was a ceasefire in place on October 6. Hamas vows to attack Israel again and again in til it is destroyed.

Please do not pass this bill.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 7:59:44 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lily Gavagan        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Ceasefire now

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 8:04:00 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Shachar Jeffrey Argov | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Committee,

I strongly oppose the measure. It is misguided, insensitive, and is not in our interest. I identify with the suffering of the people of Gaza. They are war victims of a terrorist organization-Hamas- who has taken over their territory and has engaged in a brutal campaign of terror against them and their neighbor-the State of Israel. The measure should be changed to a plea to REMOVE Hamas from power by all means necessary, and release all hostages IMMEDIATELY. A cease fire at this time will not solve the plight of the Gaza residents, Israel, and the hostages. A cease fire will prolong everyone's suffering.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 8:24:44 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Karen Young  | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in complete support of a TOTAL CEASE FIRE re the war in Palestine by ISRAEL!!

**YESTERDAY, 8 CHILDREN WERE KILLED< A ND MANY OTHERS SEVERELY WOUNDED WHILE THEY WERE PLAYING: THE IMAGES OF THE HORROR, SUFFERING AND AFTERMATH WAS HORRIFIC, UNBEARABLE, AND UNBELIEVABLE, TO SAY THE**

**LEAST,** and this cannot describe the handling and taking away of the bodies, both dead and

nearly dead by family and loved ones. **SIBLINGS WERE WAILING AND CRYING IN DISBELIEF** as all of us who saw the images were! For a nation that has gone through

the **HOLOCAUST** - this is Unbelievable! **THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE GENOCIDE** that

the world should not allow and **COMPLETELY AND UNEQUIVOCABLY CONDEMNI**

**CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE! RELEASE OF HOSTAGES! AND NO FURTHER**

**ARMS OF ANY KIND TO THE ISRAELIS. THIS IS A WAR CRIME EQUIVALENT TO THE**

**HOLOCAUST AND IS NEVER TO BE TOLERATED!! I SUPPORT PRES. BIDEN IN WHAT HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN OTHER AREAS: BUT SUPPLYING ARMS TO THE ISRAELIS**

**IS UNACCEPTABLE IN EVERY WAY AND INCONGRUENT W/ EVERYTHING ELSE HE'S**

**DONE! STOP THE KILLING OF PALESTINIANS EVERYWHERE AND IMMEDIATELY!**

**CHARGE NETANYAHU AT THE WAR CRIMES COURT AND THROW HIM IN JAIL FOR A THOUSAND YRS - EVEN THAT IS NOT ENOUGH!!**

I FULLY SUPPORT AN IMMEDIATE AND LASTING CEASE FIRE!

KAREN GS YOUNG

WAI'ANAЕ, HAWAII 96792

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 8:29:52 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Audrey Alvarez      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I SUPPORT a permanent ceasefire and I demand that the U.S. government stops supporting the Israel war machine and the killing of thousands of human beings.

Fund Lahaina NOT genocide.

FREE PALESTINE

Audrey Alvarez  
Makiki, Oahu via Lahaina, Maui

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 8:36:13 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Leocadia Conlon     | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This testimony is to support amending the current proposal for SCR13. In its current form, it omits and distorts facts. On October 7, 2023, Hamas infiltrated Israel and raped, murdered, and kidnapped civilians, including children. In response, Israel attempts to oust the lethal grip that Hamas has on the Palestinians. It is well-documented that Hamas uses human shields and builds networks for the horrific actions of its terrorist activities inside schools, mosques, hospitals, and living spaces. It is a tragedy that so many civilian lives are lost in Palestine due to Hamas's integration of its terrorist network into civilian communities. Hamas should be held accountable for war crimes.

As the proposal stands, it fails to call out the actions of Hamas and distorts the facts that have led to false narratives of genocide and promotes anti-semitism. Hamas's long-standing mission to destroy the state of Israel cannot be ignored. Rather than limit Israel's legitimate right to self-defense, SCR13 should call for an end to violence that includes the following:

- Hamas must return living hostages and the bodies of murdered hostages who were kidnapped on October 7th

- Establish Israel's right to exist as a democratic country

- Calls for Hamas to be accountable for war crimes for their use of innocent Palestinians as human shields and building their networks in schools, hospitals, mosques, and living structures

Only when we call out Hamas as a terrorist organization that is responsible for this war will we be able to protect the lives of both innocent Palestinians and Israelis.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this concerning issue.

Leocadia Conlon



**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 8:47:33 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>    |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Ruth Coules         | Individual          | Support                   | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

I stand in support of SCR13.

I am asking the members of this committee to keep in mind three things:

First, accept as the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories has, that there are reasonable ground to believe that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

Second, that this genocide is only possible because of the billions of dollars in military aid sales from the US.

And finally, that the only hope for stopping the unprecedented death, particularly of children, in Gaza is with an immediate and permanent ceasefire. Every day delayed more children die from the manmade famine, disease, untreated wounds, and military attacks.

There will come a time when our keiki and the world will ask those of us who pay taxes to the United States government what we were doing while our government enabled the genocide of Palestinians. Many of them are asking that question right now.

As an individual my power is limited but I exercise what I have. I refuse to turn away from what's happening. I talk about it with friends and family (sometimes more than they like) and post updates regularly on social media. I attend rallies and donate money.

Perhaps the most significant thing I can do is what I'm doing now. Giving testimony to my legislative representatives. I'm asking this committee, each individual on it, to exercise the power they have to end the death and suffering in Gaza. Vote this resolution on to the floor. Give all the representatives the opportunity to do as much as they can to end this genocide. Make history and be the first state to call for a ceasefire. If this committee or the Hawai'i house of representatives cannot say they stand united in calling for a ceasefire the legislature has to stop referring to aloha. In that case they have no aloha and shouldn't degrade the word by using it.

**SCR-13-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 9:05:07 AM

Testimony for CAI on 4/19/2024 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sam Peck            | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Strongly Support SCR13. Support and end to the killing of children