



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Health
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by

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SCR 114/SR 60 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO ESTABLISH A NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH TASK FORCE.

Chairs Taniguchi, Shimabukuro and Green, Vice Chairs Kahele, Hee and Baker and members of the committees, mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 114 and SR 60 establishing a Native Hawaiian Health Task Force.

The Department of Native Hawaiian Health, as part of the University of Hawai'i's John A. Burns School of Medicine, recently completed a two-year study entitled "Assessment and Priorities for Health and Well-being in Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Peoples".

SCR 114 and SR 60 represent an important next step to take the data shared through the assessment report and develop a strategic and collaborative plan for Native Hawaiian Health across public and private agencies that maximizes resources and improves health outcomes. This task force will allow us to create data sharing policies to improve access to Native Hawaiian specific data available from State agencies and use that data to propose legislation to address social determinants of health in Hawai'i. We anticipate that this task force will raise awareness of the importance of Health Equity and propose cost-effective programs to address social determinants of health. The strategic plan developed will guide the use of existing collaborations, systems, and partnerships to advance Native Hawaiian Health, including community-based health promotion and preventive services.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support of SCR 114 and SR 60.