

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that health disparities  
2 are differences in the incidence, prevalence, burden, and  
3 adverse outcomes of diseases and higher mortality rates.  
4 Disparities simply imply differences. The legislature further  
5 finds that current data suggests that health equity refers to  
6 the attainment of the highest level of health and well-being for  
7 all people in a particular society and valuing everyone equally.  
8 In order to achieve health equity, efforts must be made to  
9 address avoidable inequalities and injustices. Some of the  
10 differences are preventable and some are not. Disparities based  
11 on factors like education level, disability status, income, or  
12 housing conditions are factors which can be addressed.

13           To address these health inequities, Act 155, Session Laws  
14 of Hawaii 2014, was intended to reduce health disparities for  
15 Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and Filipino communities  
16 through identifying and addressing social determinants of  
17 health. To further address these health inequities, S.R. No.  
18 60, S.D. 1, regular session of 2014, created a Native Hawaiian



1 health task force, to specifically improve the health of Native  
2 Hawaiians with implications for other Pacific Islanders and all  
3 people of Hawai'i by focusing on health inequities that are  
4 preventable and avoidable. The goal of the task force was to  
5 articulate priority areas that will help to advance health  
6 equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's  
7 entire population. The framework and recommendations by the  
8 task force discussed were embraced by community members,  
9 agencies, government, and individuals in addition to those who  
10 view themselves as native-serving institutions. This work was  
11 community- and land-focused and emphasized Native Hawaiian  
12 values and aspirations. The task force also recognized the past  
13 efforts in this matter. The task force used nā pou kihi as the  
14 cultural framework to organize its findings and recommendations.  
15 Consistent with the hale (home) as a metaphor for establishing a  
16 healthy and vibrant Native Hawaiian population, nā pou kihi  
17 reflects the four corner posts of a hale necessary to support  
18 the weight of the hale and everyone who resides under its roof.  
19 Thus, nā pou kihi represents the four important domains of  
20 Native Hawaiian health and well-being that need to be addressed,  
21 and they are consistent with the social and cultural



1 determinants of health model used by the task force as well as  
2 the priorities outlined in the 2017 Senate majority package.

3 One aspect of nā pou kihi, referred to by the task force as  
4 ke ao 'ōiwi, focuses on Native Hawaiian cultural space, which  
5 includes cultural values, practices, customs, and rights as  
6 indigenous peoples that define Native Hawaiians as the host and  
7 indigenous population in Hawai'i. It also refers to Native  
8 Hawaiian's ability to exercise indigenous prerogatives and  
9 aspirations and express their cultural identity, without  
10 discrimination or prejudice, within the larger society of  
11 Hawai'i. Ke ao 'ōiwi is what makes Hawai'i special and provides  
12 the values that bind the people of Hawai'i to one another.

13 Native Hawaiian expertise in cultural practices are valued  
14 and required for certain seats on decision-making bodies, such  
15 as in the areas of tourism, land use, education, and community  
16 and economic development. Native Hawaiians should be involved  
17 in the decision making processes for state governmental actions  
18 and for policy decisions, especially when the policies are  
19 designed to directly impact Native Hawaiian communities the  
20 most. Additionally, Native Hawaiian leaders have demonstrated  
21 their ability to effectively address the well-being of their



1 communities by advocating for cultural integrity in community  
2 health promotion programs.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a  
4 Native Hawaiian health advisory council to:

5 (1) Provide guidance to the governor and legislature on  
6 issues that impact Native Hawaiians and their  
7 communities, including Native Hawaiian health  
8 outcomes; and

9 (2) Establish, update, and maintain a directory or  
10 registry of Native Hawaiian professionals and  
11 community leaders with an understanding of Hawaiian  
12 culture for governor-appointed leadership positions,  
13 boards, and commissions at the state and county levels  
14 of government to better incorporate culturally  
15 relevant perspectives into statewide initiatives.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
18 and to read as follows:

19 "§321- Native Hawaiian health advisory council. (a)

20 There is established a Native Hawaiian health advisory council



1 to be administratively placed under the office of health equity  
2 of the department of health.

3 (b) The Native Hawaiian health advisory council shall:

4 (1) Provide guidance to the governor and legislature on  
5 issues that impact Native Hawaiians and their  
6 communities, including Native Hawaiian health  
7 outcomes; and

8 (2) Establish, update, and maintain a directory or  
9 registry of Native Hawaiian professionals and  
10 community leaders with an understanding of Hawaiian  
11 culture for governor-appointed leadership positions,  
12 boards, and commissions at the state and county levels  
13 of government to better incorporate culturally  
14 relevant perspectives into statewide initiatives.

15 (c) The Native Hawaiian health advisory council shall be  
16 comprised of the following individuals, to be selected by the  
17 office of health equity of the department of health, who have  
18 demonstrated commitment and experience toward working with the  
19 Native Hawaiian population:

20 (1) Two representatives of the health community;

21 (2) One representative of the environmental community;



- 1        (3) One representative of the legal community;
- 2        (4) One representative of the education community;
- 3        (5) One representative of the business community;
- 4        (6) One cultural practitioner;
- 5        (7) One representative of the criminal justice community;
- 6        (8) The director of health or the director's designee, to  
7            serve as an ex officio member;
- 8        (9) The chair of the department of Native Hawaiian health  
9            of the John A. Burns school of medicine or the chair's  
10           designee, to serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member;  
11           and
- 12        (10) The chief executive officer of the office of Hawaiian  
13           affairs, or the chief executive officer's designee, to  
14           serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member.
- 15        (d) In addition to the members listed in subsection (c),  
16        there shall be two members representing the general community to  
17        be selected collectively by the director of health, the chair of  
18        the department of Native Hawaiian health of the John A. Burns  
19        school of medicine, and the chief executive officer of the  
20        office of Hawaiian affairs.



1       (e) In addition to the members under subsections (c) and  
2 (d), the council shall also include:

3       (1) The chairperson of the senate committee having primary  
4 responsibility over Hawaiian affairs, or designated  
5 representative of the chairperson; and

6       (2) The chairperson of the senate committee having primary  
7 responsibility over Hawaiian affairs, or designated  
8 representative of the chairperson;

9 provided that these members shall be nonvoting members.

10       (f) Except members representing the senate and house of  
11 representatives and ex officio members, all members shall serve  
12 a three-year term with each member serving a maximum of two  
13 consecutive terms. The members shall select a chairperson, who  
14 shall be responsible for convening council meetings and  
15 facilitating the establishment of procedural rules.

16       (g) Members shall serve without compensation and without  
17 reimbursement for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary  
18 for performance of their duties."

19       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

20       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

21



**Report Title:**

Native Hawaiian Public Policy Advisory Council; Lieutenant Governor

**Description:**

Establishes the Native Hawaiian health advisory council in the office of health equity to provide guidance to the governor and legislature on issues that impact Native Hawaiians and their communities. Requires the council to establish, update, and maintain a directory or registry of Native Hawaiian professionals and leaders for governor-appointed positions.  
(SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

