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March 23, 2021

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair,  
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services &  
Homelessness

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Anne E. Perreira-Eustaquio, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: H.C.R. No. 57/H.R. No. 46 Urging the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of  
Women to convene an inter-governmental feminist economic recovery working  
group**

HCR 57/HR 46 urges the Hawaii State Commission on Status of Women to convene an inter-governmental feminist economic recovery working group. The DLIR offers comments.

This proposal would require staffing and resources which are otherwise dedicated to performing the core missions of its programs. Thus creating a hardship to the department as we are responding to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, especially pertaining to unemployment insurance matters.



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke  
**Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

Testimony on behalf of the  
**Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women**

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS  
March 23, 2021

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women strongly supports HCR57, with requested amendments.

In March 2020, Hawai‘i made international and national news with the first government-initiated feminist economic recovery plan for the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan was co-created with experts across sectors in Hawai‘i. Since then, the world has sought our expertise in designing a recovery plan that corrects the negative effects of the pandemic on women. UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, foreign governments such as Canada, Columbia University, Georgetown University and dozens of other international and national institutions have featured the Commission.

Hawai‘i has taken significant steps to implementing a gender equitable response. For example, we are subsidizing more childcare for more families than ever in the State’s history. Further, we are about to launch a gender assessment tool across departments to ensure their programs, funding, and policies improve women’s condition. But we need more buy-in and coordination across sectors and within government.

This hearing occurs on the eve of the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform hearing on Equal Pay Day where the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women has been asked to testify on Hawai‘i’s efforts to protect women’s status during covid-19. HCR57 is an important opportunity to continue leading the world’s response on women and covid-19.

***Requested Amendment:***

The Commission kindly requests that DBEDT be named as a co-chair rather than simple member of the taskforce. DBEDT plays an outsized, critical role in shaping the economy recovery and we believe they would be a valuable co-convenor of the group, as well as augment logistics for our office.

Mahalo,  
Khara Jabola-Carolus



### **HCR57/HR46**

## **URGING THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO CONVENE AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL FEMINIST ECONOMIC RECOVERY WORKING GROUP**

Ke Kōmike Hale o ke Olakino, ka Lawelawe Kānaka, a me ka Pilikia Ho‘okuewa  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Malaki 23, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Lumi 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** HCR57/HR46. This resolution would urge the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women (Commission) to convene a working group to develop a framework for economic recovery that addresses the social, economic, ecological, and health care gaps exposed by the pandemic and that promotes gender equity with special consideration of the impacts of COVID-19 on women and gender nonconforming individuals in Hawai‘i.

OHA as an agency has a kuleana to ho‘oulu lāhui aloha – raise our beloved nation – and in doing so, OHA remains steadfast in its duty to mālama the inequities faced by Native Hawaiians, including Native Hawaiian women, girls, femme-identified, and gender nonconforming people consistent with our cultural foundation. In furtherance of this kuleana, in 2018, OHA published a report focused on the health and well-being of Native Hawaiian wāhine (the Haumea Report); data in this report illuminates the increased impacts, risks, and challenges that women and Native Hawaiian wāhine in particular may face from the COVID-19 pandemic, which should be considered in any proposals to reopen or recover our economy.

Among other information, the Haumea Report identifies many disparities relating to the overall well-being of women and Native Hawaiian wāhine, including connected or intertwined issues involving mental and emotional wellness, physical health, motherhood, incarceration, intimate partner violence, education, and occupational opportunities and wage gaps.<sup>1</sup> These disparities may only exacerbate, or be exacerbated by, the wide-ranging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; accordingly, a feminist economic recovery planning approach, such as that envisioned for this resolution’s working group, will be necessary to address or mitigate the unique or heightened harms and threats from the pandemic that women and Native Hawaiian wāhine in particular face and may continue to face in the foreseeable future.

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<sup>1</sup> See generally, OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, HAUMEA – TRANSFORMING THE HEALTH OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN AND EMPOWERING WĀHINE WELL-BEING 4 (2018).

As the proposed resolution, the Commission's feminist economic recovery plan, and various data also make clear: women, girls, femme people, gender nonconforming people and women of color, including Native Hawaiians, are obvious stakeholders in the overall health of our society, and as such should play key roles in the processes to stabilize and revitalize Hawai'i's economy during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. To aid in our collective efforts to fully and equitably combat the negative effects of COVID-19, a feminist economic recovery working group, such as that proposed by this resolution, would uplift not only Hawai'i women, girls, femme people and gender nonconforming people – including Native Hawaiians and people of color – but the entirety of our society as well.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HCR57/HR48. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HCR-57**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:59:45 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports HCR 57. Thank you!

**HCR-57**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 8:08:16 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/23/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
nanci kreidman	domestic violence action center	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you.



Hawaii  
**Children's Action Network Speaks!**  
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Representative Yamane, Chair  
Representative Tam, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: **HCR 57- Urging the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women to convene an inter-governmental feminist economic recovery working group**  
9:00AM, March 23, 2021

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support HCR 57**, which urges the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women to convene an inter-governmental feminist economic recovery working group.

It is undeniable that everyone's life has been altered by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, women and specifically Black, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander women in Hawaii have been disproportionately impacted by job loss. Additionally, women have also had to take on providing education support to their children participating in remote learning and caring for children and parents who would have been in a care program. [Twice as many moms reported they had a lot of child care responsibilities compared to dads.<sup>1</sup> Economists are predicting it will take an additional two years for economic recovery for women, compared to men.<sup>2</sup> And that's just to get back to where we were, which included a pay gap that resulted having 17% less for retirement than their male counterpart<sup>3</sup>.](#) We need to center our recovery on those most impacted and that means, centering the recovery on women.

Women suffered the most negative impacts of the pandemic because we have not valued their contributions to our economy and society. To have a robust economic recovery, we will need to ensure our programs and spending make working accessible and equitable. [Hawaii could increase it's GDP by 15% if women's participation in the workforce was fully realized.<sup>4</sup>](#) We also need to re-evaluate how we value and compensate the professions dominated by women, like caregiving.

**For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests that your committee vote favorably on the resolution.**

Kathleen Algire  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

<sup>1</sup> Pew Research Center (2021), *The pandemic has highlighted many challenges for mothers, but they aren't necessarily new*, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/03/17/the-pandemic-has-highlighted-many-challenges-for-mothers-but-they-arent-necessarily-new/>

<sup>2</sup> McKinsey & Company, (2021), *Achieving an inclusive economic recovery*, <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-and-social-sector/our-insights/achieving-an-inclusive-us-economic-recovery#>

<sup>3</sup> Forbes, (2020) *How the gender income gap impacts women's retirement*, <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/retirement/retirement-gender-income-gap/#:~:text=Women%20aged%2065%20or%20older,pensions%2C%20investment%20income%20and%20earnings.>

<sup>4</sup> McKinsey & Co, (2016), *The power of parity: advancing women's equality in the united states*. <https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/mckinsey/featured%20insights/Employment%20and%20Growth/The%20power%20of%20parity%20Advancing%20womens%20equality%20in%20the%20United%20States/MGI-Power-of-Parity-in-US-Full-report-April-2016.ashx>