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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
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Written Comments

HCR84

REQUESTING THE HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODEL TO PREPARE FOR HAWAII'S POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

Thursday, March 18, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 309

Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

Good morning Chair Ichiyama and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written **comments** on H.C.R. No. 84, Requesting the Hawaii Community Foundation to Convene a Working Group to Develop a Public-Private Partnership Model to Prepare for Hawaii's Post-Pandemic Recovery.

The purpose of this measure is to request that the Hawaii Community Foundation, in collaboration with the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, convene a working group of public, private, and non-profit leaders to create a public-private partnership model to prepare for Hawaii's post-pandemic recovery. The measure also requests the Hawaii Community Foundation and Legislative Reference Bureau to provide technical and substantive resources to assist in this effort.

The measure further requests the Hawaii Community Foundation to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2022.

The Bureau takes no position on the merits of this measure but submits the following comments for your consideration.

As to the request the measure makes of the Bureau, the Bureau believes that it may be of assistance by conducting research and assisting the working group in the preparation of its report to the Legislature, including drafting proposed legislation. However, it is not entirely clear what the term "technical and substantive resources " encompasses. We note that the Bureau possesses no additional staff or other resources to directly assign to the working group and does not control any facilities that are suitable for the operation of a working group. To that end, the Bureau respectfully requests that the measure be amended to clarify that the Bureau's assistance would consist of the aforementioned assistance with research, report preparation, and drafting. Further, we would ask that the working group submit to the Bureau by August 1, 2021, any draft documents, information, and other materials deemed necessary by the Bureau, to allow us adequate time to prepare the final report and any relevant bill drafts.

If these requested amendments are made, then the Bureau believes that the services requested under the measure would be manageable, provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting studies, writing or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or any combination of these for the Legislature or for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments.



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

To: The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
The Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
And Members of the House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

From: Micah Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President
Hawai'i Community Foundation

Re: Testimony for HCR84/HR72

Relating to a Working Group to Develop a Public-Private Partnership Model to Prepare For Hawaii's
Post-Pandemic Recovery

Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Place: Via Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli and members of the Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness Committee,

My name is Micah Kane, President & CEO of the Hawai'i Community Foundation ("HCF"). I am submitting this testimony on HCR84 and HR72 that requests HCF to convene a working group to develop a public-private partnership model to prepare for Hawai'i's post-pandemic recovery. We are excited by the opportunity to be a part of the effort to address the challenge being recognized by the resolutions.

While we will not restate all of the impacts that our state felt during 2020, we note that our HCF team dedicated a significant amount of work to help address the many needs that arose because of the impacts of COVID-19 on our statewide communities and economies. Many of these efforts were public-private partnerships as we worked with State and County Governments in distributing moneys, resources and overall assistance across the islands. We were also able to participate in many partnerships that brought government, private sector, non-profits, unions, and the philanthropic community together for relief efforts. During that time, we also watched the success that the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness, as it brought together key stakeholders to develop the actions required to address the unique needs that were arising on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

As we began 2021, we were able to take a breath and look at the sprint we were all running throughout 2020. We recognized that much of the collective effort, undertaken by all sectors of our community, was "giving fish" as opposed to "teaching to fish", because as we reacted to the reality we faced, that is what was necessary. Now is the time and opportunity for all of us, as a collective community, to find the models that will "teach ourselves to fish" for the future success we all desire for our state.

At HCF, we have focused on the CHANGE Framework, which, simply put, is to create system changes that address inequities within our society through collaborative efforts. We state it as an effort to “create a shared movement to solve Hawai’i’s greatest challenges” and to use data to guide networks of people to “align their efforts around shared goals, so that together, their collective actions create a thriving Hawai’i.” It is with this construct that we see significant value in gathering a set of stakeholders to develop models around how we collectively work to prepare our State for the post-pandemic recovery.

We hope that HCF can serve as an objective convener for this effort, finding resources to lead the discussion in a similar means that we witnessed successes during the pandemic. As the impacts of the pandemic grew, people found a common desired outcome to solve community needs. We believe that this unity was a key factor in finding collective success. We foresee an opportunity to extend that commonality to engage in discussions about our State’s future, bringing together multiple sectors of our communities in a productive way.

At this point, we do not pre-suppose any ultimate outcome. That must come from group discussions. We at HCF are ready and willing to commit our time and resources to undertake the kind of endeavor called for in these resolutions. Because we foresee the opportunities for system changes in multiple sectors – from policy to operation practices – we believe this effort has the potential to develop models that will create a thriving Hawai’i.

Therefore, we thank you committee for considering HCR84 and HR72, and look forward to further discussion on the resolutions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.