



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.¹ 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.

¹ 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.

HR-46

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 3:00:12 PM

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

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

Comments:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii supports HR 46. Thank you!

HR-46

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 10:15:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Hamid	AF3IRM Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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

AF3IRM Hawai'i stands in strong support of HR 46, and all initiatives to create a feminist economic recovery working group for the State of Hawai'i. We have seen firsthand the direct impact that COVID-19 has had on women, femme identified, and queer people. There have been a series of gender blind policies throughout the pandemic that target and discriminate against women, femme identified and queer people. Thousands of women in Hawai'i have been forced out of the workforce, subjected to predatory landlords, forced to engage in constant caregiving, and some even forced into the sex trade as a result of widespread unemployment and lack of access to benefits. The path forward cannot be built on the backs of women, we must be feminist as we wage a path forward. We urge you to pass HR 46 and stand by the thousands of women who need our economic recovery to be feminist. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

AF3IRM Hawai'i

HR-46

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 9:36:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support for all of the reasons stated in the bill.

HR-46

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 10:07:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Michal Hamid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and esteemed members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness,

My name is Sarah Michal Hamid and I write today in strong support of HR 46, to create a feminist economic recovery taskforce for the State of Hawai'i. COVID-19 has illuminanted the multitude of ways that sexism, misogyny, and patriarchy is embeded in every element in our lives in Hawai'i. Millions of women have been forced out of the workforce, subjected to predatory landlords, forced to engage in constant caregiving, and some even forced into the sex trade as a result of widespread unemployment and lack of access to benefits. As a state we must work actively against the rampant sexism that creates these conditions. I urge you to pass HR 46 and stand by the thousands of women who need our economic recovery to be feminist. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Sarah Michal Hamid