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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AMEND THE NATIVE  
HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT TO ENSURE THAT THE ACT  
RECEIVES PERMANENT FUNDING.

1           WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act,  
2 originally enacted as the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of  
3 1988, and codified under title 42 United States Code Annotated  
4 chapter 122, states in section 11701 in pertinent part:

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6           "(17) The authority of the Congress under the United  
7 States Constitution to legislate in matters affecting the  
8 aboriginal or indigenous peoples of the United States  
9 includes the authority to legislate in matters affecting  
10 the native peoples of Alaska and Hawaii.

11  
12           (18) In furtherance of the trust responsibility for the  
13 betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians, the  
14 United States has established a program for the provision  
15 of comprehensive health promotion and disease prevention  
16 services to maintain and improve the health status of the  
17 Hawaiian people."; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, title 42 United States Code Annotated section  
20 11702 states, in pertinent part, as follows:

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22           "The Congress hereby declares that it is the policy of  
23 the United States in fulfillment of its special  
24 responsibilities and legal obligations to the indigenous  
25 people of Hawaii resulting from the unique and historical  
26 relationship between the United States and the Government  
27 of the indigenous people of Hawaii-

28  
29           (1) to raise the health status of Native Hawaiians to the  
30 highest possible health level; and  
31



1           (2) *to provide existing Native Hawaiian health care*  
2           *programs with all resources necessary to effectuate this*  
3           *policy.*" (emphasis added); and  
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5           WHEREAS, title 42 United States Code Annotated section  
6 11705(h) authorizes appropriations necessary for fiscal years  
7 1993 through 2019; and  
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9           WHEREAS, stakeholders face continued uncertainty regarding  
10 long-term funding beyond fiscal year 2019; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau's  
13 report, "The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander  
14 Population: 2010", the nation's Native Hawaiian population  
15 increased by 31.4 percent between 2000 and 2010 with  
16 approximately fifty-five percent of that population living in  
17 Hawaii, and the American Community Survey produced an estimate  
18 of approximately 568,000 Native Hawaiians nationwide in 2015;  
19 and  
20

21           WHEREAS, Act 42, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, codified as  
22 section 10-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, established the Hui 'Imi  
23 Advisory Council within the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and  
24

25           WHEREAS, the Department of Health published a report in  
26 2011, entitled "Chronic Disease Disparities Report 2011: Social  
27 Determinants", which found that chronic diseases—such as heart  
28 disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and chronic lower respiratory  
29 diseases—are the most prevalent, most disabling, and most costly  
30 of all diseases; and  
31

32           WHEREAS, the Department of Native Hawaiian Health of the  
33 John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii at  
34 Manoa published a report in 2013, entitled "Assessment and  
35 Priorities for Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and  
36 other Pacific Peoples", which found that Hawaii's Native  
37 Hawaiian population had a lower life expectancy than other  
38 populations and had higher rates of death from heart disease,  
39 cancer, stroke, diabetes, and injuries compared to the State's  
40 overall population; and half of Native Hawaiian and Pacific  
41 Islanders report being obese; and  
42



1 WHEREAS, social determinants of health and other factors  
2 contribute to the continued health disparities that affect the  
3 Native Hawaiian population; and  
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5 WHEREAS, while Hawaii and the country in general have made  
6 strides toward improving the health of Native Hawaiians, long-  
7 term federal funding for necessary health programs and services  
8 remains at risk; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act is intended  
11 to provide descendants of the indigenous people of the  
12 continental United States assistance with health services; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, section 1680o of the Indian Health Care  
15 Improvement Act (title 25 United States Code Annotated chapter  
16 18) provides for permanent funding of the Act beginning in  
17 fiscal year 2010 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain  
18 available until expended; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians should have the same assurance  
21 given to other indigenous people in the United States regarding  
22 federal funding for health programs and services; now,  
23 therefore,  
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
26 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
27 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the United States Congress  
28 is requested to amend the Native Hawaiian Health Care  
29 Improvement Act to ensure that the Act receives permanent  
30 funding; and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro  
34 Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of the House of  
35 Representatives of the United States Congress, Majority Leader  
36 of the United States Senate, Majority Leader of the United  
37 States House of Representatives, Hawaii's congressional  
38 delegation, United States Secretary of Health and Human  
39 Services, Governor of the State of Hawaii, Chairperson of the  
40 Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, President  
41 of the University of Hawaii System, Director of Health, Mayor of  
42 each county in the State of Hawaii, President of the Board of



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1 Directors of Papa Ola Lokahi, and Executive Director of Papa Ola  
 2 Lokahi, who in turn is requested to transmit this measure to the  
 3 Chair of the Board of each Native Hawaiian health care system,  
 4 as defined in the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act.

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OFFERED BY:

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