
HOUSE 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2 originally enacted as the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of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:

5
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:

21
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
32 (2) *to provide existing Native Hawaiian health care*
33 *programs with all resources necessary to effectuate this*
34 *policy.*" (emphasis added); and
35



1 WHEREAS, title 42 United States Code Annotated section
2 11705(h) authorizes appropriations necessary for fiscal years
3 1993 through 2019; and
4

5 WHEREAS, stakeholders face continued uncertainty regarding
6 long-term funding beyond fiscal year 2019; and
7

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

17 WHEREAS, Act 42, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, codified as
18 section 10-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, established the Hui 'Imi
19 Advisory Council within the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Department of Health published a report in
22 2011, entitled "Chronic Disease Disparities Report 2011: Social
23 Determinants", which found that chronic diseases—such as heart
24 disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and chronic lower respiratory
25 diseases—are the most prevalent, most disabling, and most costly
26 of all diseases; and
27

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

39 WHEREAS, social determinants of health and other factors
40 contribute to the continued health disparities that affect the
41 Native Hawaiian population; and
42



1 WHEREAS, while Hawaii and the country in general have made
2 strides toward improving the health of Native Hawaiians, long-
3 term federal funding for necessary health programs and services
4 remains at risk; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act is intended
7 to provide descendants of the indigenous people of the
8 continental United States assistance with health services; and
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10 WHEREAS, section 1680o of the Indian Health Care
11 Improvement Act (title 25 United States Code Annotated chapter
12 18) provides for permanent funding of the Act beginning in
13 fiscal year 2010 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain
14 available until expended; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians should have the same assurance
17 given to other indigenous people in the United States regarding
18 federal funding for health programs and services; now,
19 therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
23 of 2018, that the United States Congress is requested to amend
24 the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act to ensure that
25 the Act receives permanent funding; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro Tempore of the
29 United States Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives of
30 the United States Congress, Majority Leader of the United States
31 Senate, Majority Leader of the United States House of
32 Representatives, Hawaii's congressional delegation, United
33 States Secretary of Health and Human Services, Governor of the
34 State of Hawaii, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the
35 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, President of the University of
36 Hawaii System, Director of Health, Mayor of each county in the
37 State of Hawaii, President of the Board of Directors of Papa Ola
38 Lokahi, and Executive Director of Papa Ola Lokahi, who in turn
39 is requested to transmit this measure to the Chair of the Board
40



H.R. NO. 73

1 of each Native Hawaiian health care system, as defined in the
2 Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act.

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