



June 19, 2020
9:00 am

To: The Honorable Alice L. Lee, Chair, Maui County
The Honorable Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice Chair

From: **Dr. Sheri Daniels**, Co-Lead, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery, Resilience Team
Josie Howard, Co-Lead, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery, Resilience Team
Dr. Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, Co-Lead, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery, Resilience Team
Felea'i Tau, Co-Lead, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery, Resilience Team

Re: CC 20-329 - SUPPORTING AND URGING THE MAYOR TO SUPPORT A FEMINIST ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN FOR COVID-19 (PAF 20-170)

Position: Strong Support

Aloha * Talofa * Yokwe * Kaselehlie * Alii * Hafa adai * Mālō e lelei * greetings,

We have many ways to describe the labors and obligations of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women that we open within our greetings to you; the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawai'i COVID-19 Response, Recovery, Resilience Team. We are pleased to submit this testimony in **strong support** of PAF 20-170/CC 20-329 to create an economic recovery plan for women and girls, mähū, and aikāne.

Hā'awe i ke kua; hi'i i ke alo. A burden on the back; a babe in the arms.

Said of a hard-working woman who carries a load on her back and a baby in her arms.

'Ōlelo No'ea #401

Our communities have upheld the mo'okū'auhau and mo'olelo of women in Pacific societies – their beauty, abilities, and power. Living an Indigenous mindset means we uphold these genealogies as sacred with mana wāhine and mana mähū today as their living descendents. Women serve as the foundation of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander families and communities. In as much, this resolution is a core step in the right direction for our peoples and comprehensive solutions needed to support us for years to come.

More than 30 programs and organizations that serve the health and wellness needs of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have established a COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Resiliency Team. This Hawai'i-based

Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander



HAWAI'I COVID-19

Response Recovery Resilience

TEAM

team is assessing how the Novel Coronavirus 2019 is disproportionately impacting communities that already have the greatest health, social and economic disparities, and are under-represented in the decision-making processes. The purpose of our group efforts is to inventory and support current efforts, identify gaps, and facilitate partnerships and resources. The intent of this Team is to support local initiatives and position ourselves to assure that the perspectives of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i are considered when policies and programs are being developed, such as this legislation.

Of these areas to advocate for are the gender-based impacts that are intersectional to race/ethnicity. We too are concerned about the compounded social and economic impacts experienced by Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women, girls, māhū, and aikāne due to the stressors of COVID-19. These include but are not limited to:

1. The disproportional impact of positive COVID-19 rates
2. Uninsured and underinsured rates
3. Testing and treatment expenses
4. Domestic violence and interpersonal violence, assault, and trauma
5. Food insecurity
6. Poverty
7. Job, wage, and benefit losses
8. Inadequate shelter and housing
9. Unpaid care-giving of children and elders
10. Digital gap and lack of access to critical technology

Because of these impacts and their long-term risks, Hawai'i must take a holistic approach to solutions for our families and communities, among those being Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who are often marginalized and left behind. Because of these longstanding realities, we agree with the principles of equality and tenets of equity listed in this resolution. In fact, they are core to addressing the social determinants of health and the populations hardest hit by these factors that negatively impact our health, well-being and longevity of life.

We are pleased to see this resolution promotes best practices and evidence supported priorities that are successful in improving public health. This resolution is an important step for Maui County to support pathways out of despair. It emphasizes the kuleana of women, while acknowledging the kuleana of wāhine and māhū in our traditions and cultures.

Our team is ready and willing to help the Maui County Council and the Mayor to implement the recommendations listed in this resolution. We hope the rest of the counties, state, and the nation respond to the pillars of gender-based equality set here and commit to similar objectives.

Further, we encourage appropriate resourcing to be provided to Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander programs that support women, girls, māhū, and aikāne on the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i and Kaho'olawe. We are confident that identifying common goals that build on our strengths will bring about impactful and sustainable change to assure that our people will thrive within Maui Nui and Hawai'i Nei.