

Executive Summary

On September 23, 2013, the Senate of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2014, passed Senate Resolution No. 60, S.D.1, creating a *Native Hawaiian Health Task Force*, to specifically improve the health of Native Hawaiians with implications for other Pacific Islanders and all people of Hawai'i.

Per Senate Resolution No. 60 S.D.1, the task force will focus on the following work:

- 1) Create data sharing policies between state agencies to improve access to these data for timely and disaggregated analyses to help inform policies and programs aimed at improving Native Hawaiian health;
- 2) Propose cost-effective improvements to the environments where Native Hawaiians live, learn, work, and play;
- 3) Propose state legislation to address social and cultural determinants of health in Hawai'i;
- 4) Raise awareness and propose programs to advance health equity;
- 5) Propose programs and legislative action that will address barriers to access to health care;
- 6) Guide the use of existing collaborations, systems, and partnerships to leverage resources and maximize outcomes;
- 7) Propose activities that will support community organizations promoting their own health on their own terms; and
- 8) Propose initiatives that will increase preventive services available in Native Hawaiian communities

Task Force Objective

The **goal** of the task force is to articulate priority areas that will help to advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The framework and recommendations discussed should be embraced by community members, agencies, government, and individuals in addition to those who view themselves as native-serving institutions. This work is community- and land-focused and emphasizes Native Hawaiian values and aspirations.

The resolution called for this task force to be co-chaired by the Chair for the Department of Native Hawaiian Health of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Director of Health, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (or their designees). It also called for an additional 20 members from the Native Hawaiian community to serve on this task force.



Mohala i ka wai, ka maka o ka pua.

Flowers thrive where there is water, as thriving people are found where living conditions are good.

-‘Ōlelo No‘eau

Social & Cultural Determinants of Health for Native Hawaiians

Ancient Hawaiians understood the role political, social, environmental, and cultural factors played in a person’s health and wellbeing. This understanding has been passed down to Native Hawaiians in present day and is figuratively illustrated in the above ‘Ōlelo No‘eau (Hawaiian proverbial saying). Conventional sciences have only recently uncovered what this ancient derived wisdom has understood for generations--*that the foundation for optimal health, the well-being, is tied to the quality of our interpersonal relations, of the environments in which we live, work, learn, play, age and of society’s support for one’s cultural identity and preferred modes of living. All of these factors are linked to political decisions and derived policies.* The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force uses a social and cultural determinants of health model to inform and situate our findings.

What are social determinants of health?

Societal, political, and economic forces that influence the social structure and hierarchy and the distribution of power, resources, and opportunities in society that differentially impact the health and wellbeing of people. These include the presence or absence of discrimination in employment, education, housing and health care; whether one has a livable wage or lives in a safe neighborhood.

**What are cultural determinants of health?**

Socio-cultural conditions that influence group differences in health status. For Indigenous Peoples, the preservation of cultural traditions (e.g., native language, values, and practices) and sacred places, access to ancestral lands, a strong indigenous identity, and cultural participation are important determinants of health.

<p>1. Establish an online database across state agencies.</p> <p><i>Requesting for an expansion of the current State of Hawai'i data-sharing portal to house data from multiple state agencies that can be accessed by state-registered organizations.</i></p> <p>SB1314</p>	<p>2. Advocate and plan for median strips/sidewalks and other infrastructure to increase safety in Native Hawaiian communities with community input.</p> <p><i>Seeking to align resources to prioritize the implementation of safety features such as median strips and sidewalks in communities with higher populations of Native Hawaiians in a timely manner and including the community in the process of advocating, planning and implementation of pedestrian safety features.</i></p> <p>SB1063</p>	<p>3. Advocate for a livable wage by 2020.</p> <p><i>Requesting for a re-evaluation of the current minimum wage and an adjustment of the minimum wage into a livable wage.</i></p>	<p>4. Support paid family leave efforts with a definition of family that is culturally relevant.</p> <p><i>Seeking for an expansion of the definition of family and advocating for paid family leave policy.</i></p>
<p>5. Include pre-kindergarten in public schools.</p> <p><i>Advocating for the inclusion of pre-K programs in public elementary schools to lessen the cost burden of early childhood education on parents.</i></p>	<p>6. Establish a directory of Native Hawaiian professionals and community leaders with an understanding of Hawaiian culture for Governor-appointed leadership positions to better incorporate culturally relevant perspectives into statewide initiatives.</p> <p><i>Seeking to establish a registry of Native Hawaiian professionals who will contribute their leadership for boards, commissions and appointed positions at the state and county levels of government.</i></p> <p>SB1304</p>	<p>7. Advocate for a portion of the Transient Accommodations Tax.</p> <p><i>Allocate a portion of the revenue from the Transient Accommodations tax to support Native Hawaiian cultural, social, economic, and educational programs.</i></p> <p>SB1314, SB1063, HB1486</p>	<p>8. Establish an environmental and cultural preservation fee (9.25%) on restaurants and entertainment in hotels.</p> <p><i>Create a fee similar to the TAT on hotel restaurants and entertainment. The revenue would be allocated towards programs or projects that benefit Native Hawaiians.</i></p>

<p>9. Include long-term care options with home-based care in a statewide insurance program.</p> <p><i>Requesting for the inclusion of home-based care as a long-term care option to make healthcare more affordable.</i></p>	<p>10. Develop a state-plan to incorporate the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p><i>Creating a state-level declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples, based off the framework of the internationally adopted United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).</i></p>	<p>11. Establish school-based health centers.</p> <p><i>Requesting for more school-based health centers to be built and operated to provide young people with needed health care while avoiding disruption in their education.</i></p>	<p>12. Develop an undergraduate health sciences academy within the University of Hawai'i system in cooperation with relevant educational institutions to target the recruitment and retention of Native Hawaiian students.</p> <p><i>The University of Hawai'i system shall implement a program to improve preparation for careers in the health sciences. The program would encompass additional supports for indigenous students and first generation college students to improve success and increase retention.</i></p> <p>SB1294, HB1542</p>
<p>13. Increase services for Native Hawaiians who come in contact with the criminal justice system to promote integration back into the community to reduce recidivism rates.</p> <p><i>Promoting the offering of resources for community members during their contact with the criminal justice system.</i></p>	<p>14. Establish a Native Hawaiian Public Policy Advisory Council.</p> <p><i>Development of a Native Hawaiian Public Policy Advisory Council to provide guidance on significant policies impacting Native Hawaiians.</i></p> <p>SB1304</p>	<p>15. Reimburse for culturally appropriate services and traditional practices.</p> <p><i>Requesting for an expansion of insurance company benefits to include traditional Native Hawaiian practices with health benefits such as hula dancing or canoe paddling.</i></p> <p>SB1315, SB1314</p>	<p>16. Restore Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid Enrollees.</p> <p><i>Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to restore basic adult dental benefits to Medicaid and QUEST Integration enrollees. Among these strategies are proposals to: (1) Continue to support and expand affordable and accessible preventive dental care services to Hawai'i's low-income populations; and (2) Expand Medicaid dental services for adults beyond the limited current coverage for emergencies to include preventive and treatment services.</i></p>