



OHA-12

HB1616/SB2103

Native Hawaiian Health Planning

HB1616/SB2103 Would Modernize the State Planning Act Objectives to Reflect Current Best Practices for Health Policy

HOW DO WE IMPROVE POOR HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND ALL OF HAWAI'I?

- While the United States leads the world in health care spending, our wellbeing lags far behind our peers. This is because much of what affects our health is determined by what happens outside of the doctor's office: what public health professionals call the "social determinants of health." For Hawai'i's most vulnerable communities, the reality is that public policy decisions make it far too hard to make the kinds of decisions that are necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- Here in our own homeland, Native Hawaiians are among the hardest hit by social determinants of health, resulting in our state's first people ranking last in many wellness indicators. Other Pacific Islanders and Filipinos face similar challenges.
- The best way to address Native Hawaiian health in particular and our state's challenges overall is through a dual commitment to Native Hawaiian health as well as the broader social determinants of health that affect us all.
- The State Planning Act ("Act"), HRS Ch. 226, is a policy-setting document intended to improve state planning, increase government effectiveness, and improve coordination among different agencies, making it the appropriate vehicle for this change.
- While the Federal government has codified its commitment to Native Hawaiian health for over twenty-five years, the State of Hawai'i has yet to follow suit.
- While addressing social determinants of health is considered the most important factor to ensuring healthy communities, the State Planning Act does not yet explicitly address social determinants of health as an important component of health planning.
- Current health planning statutes have not been updated since 1988.

WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH?

- The World Health Organization, the United States Department of Health and Human Service's Healthy People 2020 and the Center for Disease Control all **recognize social determinants of health as the single most influential factor in individual and population health outcomes, more so than genetic disposition or medical care.**
- Social determinants of health are those other factors of social well-being such as housing, education, social services, leisure, individual rights, culture and public safety that all play a role in overall health outcomes for individuals and communities. These circumstances are created, influenced and shaped by politics and social policies. Communities with parks, walkable areas, good schools, affordable housing and readily available fresh fruits and vegetables allow individuals to make healthy personal choices, while saving money and resources that would otherwise be spent on health issues caused by the lack of practical opportunities for healthy decision making.



- Addressing the social determinants of health is a research based health planning methodology embraced by most health organizations and governmental agencies.

WHY SHOULD WE SUPPORT HB1616/SB2103?

- Incorporating a holistic understanding of health and wellbeing into health planning is consistent with the Kānaka Maoli concept of maui ola, which considers the entirety of our well-being as contributing to the health of ourselves and the larger community.
- Though some segments of Hawai'i's population may rank high in national health outcomes, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos continue to have life expectancies drastically lower than others groups and much higher rates of chronic disease. This bill implements policy changes to allow state agencies discretion to implement best practices in health planning and support targeted services, interventions, and programs that are proven successes in improving health outcomes for Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.
- Updating the state planning act to include social determinants provides support for state agencies that decided to address unequal conditions in housing, education, social services, leisure, individual rights, and public safety are created, influenced and shaped by social policies and politics.
- Implementing policy that allows state agencies to address the social determinants of health simply makes our approach to healthcare more efficient, and benefits our entire population. Targeting preventative resources to communities most significantly affected by barriers to good health can provide greater overall access to health facilities in rural areas, affordable and safe housing, affordable fresh fruits and vegetables and preventative healthcare for all the people of Hawai'i.

WHAT WOULD HB1616/SB2103 ACTUALLY DO?

- HB1616/SB2103 would update our State Planning Act to reflect best practices and to ensure the most efficient use of resources by targeting key services, interventions, programs and funding to address the social determinants of health of Native Hawaiians, Pacific islanders and Filipinos.
- HB1616/SB2103 codifies a clear and unmistakable commitment to the health of Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos, and to addressing the social determinants of health in general.
- HB1616/SB2103 is one step towards modernizing the way we address disparities, by providing support for state agencies that seek to include social determinants of health in their policy planning, which ultimately may lead to effective use of resources and better health outcomes for all, while ensuring communities hardest hit and most significantly affected by barriers to good health are not left behind.

WHAT ARE PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF HOW THIS BILL WOULD INFLUENCE STATE POLICY?

- This bill encourages all state agencies to implement best practices in health planning and support targeted services, interventions, and programs that are proven successes in improving health outcomes for Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos.



- Addressing the social determinants of health hardest hit and most significantly affected by barriers to good health can provide greater overall access to health facilities in rural areas, affordable and safe housing, affordable fresh fruits and vegetables and preventative healthcare for all the people of Hawai‘i. In addition, targeting service delivery efficiently addresses the health needs of those with significant barriers to good health, freeing up resources for more generalized healthcare services.

WHY IS OHA ADVOCATING FOR THIS BILL?

- Part of OHA’s mission is a commitment to mālama Hawai‘i’s people and build a strong and healthy Native Hawaiian people and nation. OHA advocates for good policy choices that benefit our entire state population when the results will have meaningful impact on the lives of Native Hawaiians. The 2013 report “Assessment and Priorities for Health & Well-being in Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Peoples” identifies a number of programs that have already improved the health and well-being of participants by focusing on preventative care, community support, and addressing social determinants of health. OHA supports policy changes that will allow all state agencies the opportunity to support targeted services, interventions, and programs for the betterment of Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, and all of our state’s population.

Resources:

Assessment and Priorities for Health & Well-being in Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Peoples Report:

<http://blog.hawaii.edu/uhmednow/files/2013/09/AP-Hlth-REPORT-2013.pdf>

Connecting to Culture for Better Health:

<http://www.oha.org/news/kokua-kalihi-valley-comprehensive-family-services>

World Health Organization planning for the Social Determinants of Health

http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

Center for Disease Control (CDC) Information on the Social Determinants of Health

<http://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/FAQ.html>