



KA 'AHA LĀHUI O 'OLEKONA

HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB OF OREGON & SW WASHINGTON

March 21, 2023

Welina mai me ke aloha e Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama, and Members of the Committee

My name is Leialoha Ka'ula and I am the Executive Director of Ka 'Aha Lahui O Olekona Hawaiian Civic Club of Oregon and SW Washington (KALOHCC). We are an Oregon based non-profit with a mission to support and elevate the voices of Oregon's fastest growing community of color; Pacific Islanders. I am writing to express **support for Senate Bill 5525**.

As our marginalized communities continue to grow, resources and services need to also be made available to support all who reside in the state of Oregon. The Oregon Health Authority's goal of eliminating health inequities can be attainable should the state make funding accessible to community based organizations who's relationship with community will allow for a greater reach. Senate Bill 5525 will provide an opportunity for CBOs to not only support their communities in need but establish a sense of belonging and sustainability. Senate Bill 5525 is an investment in our public health system that will allow for Oregon to thrive TOGETHER.

Through KALO's relationship with OHA, we have been able to partner with OHA to better serve our Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities through various programs like providing food resources, health resources, medical supplies, and the list goes on. However, the key component of this relationship has been the ability to feel seen. NHPI communities continue to be categorized as AAPI/API and the inequities and lack of resources continue to be overlooked because our numbers are being overshadowed and forgotten. This partnership, and continuing to provide support for the NHPI community will also allow for our communities to build programs to elevate the need to disaggregate data. Senate Bill 5525 will allow for OHA to continue their great outreach efforts with and for the NHPI communities so that we, too, can be part of a thriving Oregon!

At KALOHCC, we know that Senate Bill 5525 will not only be instrumental to our community, but this will be true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors thrive, all of Oregon thrives.

We urge you to support OHA's full request of \$286 million, including \$100 million to support the work of CBOs. Thank you for your time.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Leialoha Ka'ula
Executive Director