



March 5, 2025

The Honorable Hai Pham  
The Honorable Darin Harbick  
The Honorable Cyrus Javadi  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, OR

Re: HB 3511 - Concerning Betel Nuts and Declaration of an Emergency

Dear Representatives Pham, Representative Harbick, and Representative Javadi,

I am reaching out to express my organization's support for House Bill 3511, which seeks to address the significant health concerns related to betel nut consumption through education, public health initiatives, and culturally sensitive outreach.

In my capacity as the Executive Director of the Marshallese American Network for Interacting Together, I have observed how betel nut use disproportionately affects Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) and Asian communities, leading to notable health disparities, including an increase in oral cancer cases.

I believe that HB 3511 can make a meaningful impact in our efforts to mitigate the harmful effects of betel nut consumption by:

- Support community-based organizations in developing education and prevention campaigns that are culturally relevant and effective.
- Providing training opportunities for healthcare providers to recognize better and address the health risks of betel nut use.
- Integrating relevant information regarding the dangers of betel nut consumption into Oregon's educational system, ensuring that students and communities can access accurate health education.
- Focusing on historically underserved communities that may lack the necessary resources and information to confront this public health challenge effectively.

We must enhance institutional awareness and action surrounding the health effects of betel nut use to support affected communities more effectively. By advancing HB 3511, Oregon has the potential to be at the forefront of addressing this critical issue through proactive education and prevention.

I respectfully urge you and your colleagues to consider supporting this bill and facilitating its timely passage. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and commitment to improving public health for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lowell Alik', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lowell Alik

Executive Director

Marshallese American Network for Interacting Together