

Submitter: Samoa Pacific Development Corporation
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3511

March 6, 2025

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

Re: HB 3511 Relating to betel nuts; declaring an emergency

Dear Representative Pham, Representative Harbick, and Representative Javadi,

We are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 3511, which seeks to address the adverse health effects of betel nut consumption through education, public health campaigns, and culturally competent outreach.

As Samoa Pacific Development Corporation (SPDC), we have seen firsthand how betel nut use disproportionately affects Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) and Asian communities, leading to severe health disparities, including increased cases of oral cancer.

This bill is a critical step forward in addressing the harmful impact of betel nut consumption by:

Funding community-based organizations to develop culturally relevant education and prevention campaigns.

Ensuring health care providers receive training to recognize and address betel nut-related health risks.

Integrating information on the dangers of betel nut use into Oregon's educational system ensures that students and communities receive accurate and accessible health education.

Prioritizing historically underserved communities, who often lack the necessary information and resources to combat this public health crisis.

For too long, institutional awareness and action have been lacking on the health effects of betel nut use, leaving affected communities without proper support. By passing HB 3511, Oregon can lead the nation in addressing this pressing issue through proactive education and prevention.

We strongly urge you and your colleagues to support this bill and ensure its swift passage. Thank you for your time and commitment to improving public health for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Samoa Pacific Development Corporation
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