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PAPA OLA LŌKAHI TESTIFIES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES

(United States Capitol, Washington, DC) – Today, Papa Ola Lōkahi's CEO Dr. Sheri Ann Daniels appeared as a minority witness for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs' (SCIA) Oversight Hearing related to Federal Programs serving Native Americans across the Operating Divisions at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We thank Chair Murkowski and Vice Chair Schatz for their leadership and the entire committee for shining a light on how HHS programs must be maintained for the betterment of native communities across the country and especially for Native Hawaiians.

Papa Ola Lōkahi was created by Congress and statutorily authorized to oversee and coordinate the improvement of the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians. It is critical that this administration uphold its federal trust responsibilities to its native peoples.

Dr. Daniels' testimony identified public health and social services delivered and implemented for more than 35 years by the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, Papa Ola Lōkahi and the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program. Most importantly, she presented the impacts that of these programs and services—chronic disease prevention, emergency response, cultural healing, capacity building, health workforce development, health system navigation, and more--upon which communities in rural and urban settings rely.

"We stand with Dr. Daniels," proclaimed board president Kilipaki Vaughan, "in her assertions that maintaining funding and functioning of both Native Hawaiian Health Programs and broader HHS programs like Medicaid, TANF and child welfare services is vital to the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians."

Vaughan continues, "As Congress deliberates the next fiscal year's budget, we emphasize how critical these services are for the many Hawaiians and community-based organizations that serve Hawaiians. Dr. Daniels' comments shed light on how these proposed budget cuts impact the entire Native Hawaiian Health network."

Mahalo nui to the committee for the opportunity to highlight the services, impacts and strategies supported by the federal government.

*Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems and the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program
comprise the Federal Native Hawaiian Health Program
Improving Hawaiian Health and Well-Being for More Than 35 Years*

Papa Ola Lokahi

is the Hawaiian Health Board, authorized to "raise the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level."

Board of Directors Member Organizations

Hoola Lahui Hawaii

Hui No Ke Ola Pono

Hui Malama Ola Na Oihi

ALU LIKE

Ke Ola Mamo

E Ola Mau

University of Hawaii

Hawaii State Department of Health

Na Puuwai

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

President

Kilipaki Vaughan

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