SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF 21ST CENTURY DATA GOVERNANCE FOR FACT-BASED POLICYMAKING.

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization identifies health as a fundamental human right; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are the native people of Hawaii and once maintained a thriving population of more than one million inhabitants whose land and resource management practices allowed them to live harmoniously with their environment; and

WHEREAS, the arrival of westerners caused a shift in this balance, resulting in the erosion and eventual loss of Native Hawaiian governance over Hawaii's land and resources; and

WHEREAS, a series of epidemics, from foreign diseases in particular, contributed significantly to the historic decline of the Native Hawaiian population and the generational trauma that Native Hawaiians are still healing from today; and

WHEREAS, the decimation of the Native Hawaiian population, the dispossession and disconnection of Native Hawaiians from their lands, and the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom resulted in further historical injustices and systemic inequities that continue to impact the Native Hawaiian community; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the historical injustices and ongoing inequities faced by Native Hawaiians, the Hawaii Constitution and Hawaii Revised Statutes have established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as an agency dedicated to bettering the conditions of Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act further acknowledged the poor health status of the Native
Hawaiian population and established Papa Ola Lokahi and the
Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems; and

WHEREAS, Section 226-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
acknowledges the social determinants of health that influence
Native Hawaiian health and expresses the State's commitment to
reducing health disparities for Native Hawaiian and other groups
through a social determinants of health approach; and

WHEREAS, to best accomplish the Hawaii State Planning Act's
objective of the "elimination of health disparities by
identifying and addressing social determinants of health,"
timely, clear, and detailed information on social determinants
such as housing, employment, health outcomes, and other factors
is critical; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget's Statistical
Policy Directive No. 15 (OMB-15), as amended, which establishes
the racial and ethnic standards for data collection,
disaggregates Polynesians, Micronesians, and Melanesians from
Asians, creating "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" as
a separate category; and

WHEREAS, the separation of "Native Hawaiian or Other
Pacific Islander" from the "Asian" category was and remains
critical to informing policymaking and interventions that
directly and effectively target health and associated
disparities and inequities facing the Native Hawaiian and
Pacific Islander communities; and

WHEREAS, the OMB-15 federal directive allows states to
create additional subcategories that further disaggregate the
seven federal categories for their own state purposes and allows
states to use existing data collection systems for race and
ethnicity, provided the data can be aggregated by the seven
federal categories; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of the few states to further
disaggregate Native Hawaiians from Pacific Islanders in certain
agencies' data collection and processing practices, which has
contributed significantly to efforts to understand and
effectively respond to certain impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, available information indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in substantial, varied, and respectively unique ways and exacerbated their pre-pandemic health and socioeconomic disparities; and

WHEREAS, there continue to be substantial data gaps regarding unemployment rates, infection trends, housing and social service needs, law enforcement interactions, and other pandemic-related outcomes specific to Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and other vulnerable communities that may desperately need targeted and data-informed relief to address their health and health-associated needs; and

WHEREAS, the unavailability of timely, clear, and detailed data and the lack of consistent data collection, processing, retention, sharing, and governance practices in critical government agencies have stymied efforts by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Papa Ola Lokahi, and groups such as the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawaii COVID-19 Response, Recovery, and Resilience Team to identify, develop, and advocate for effective and targeted policies and interventions to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and social determinants of health of the Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander communities in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the lack of timely, clear, and detailed data on Native Hawaiians experiencing challenges in areas such as employment, education, domestic violence, and incarceration, have long hindered the efforts of state agencies, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to address systemic inequities and the ongoing legacies of historical injustices and generational trauma; and

WHEREAS, the recovery and resilience of our Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and overall communities are dependent upon timely, clear, and detailed data that consistently disaggregates Native Hawaiians from other Pacific Islanders in order to better advance the State's public health
and social determinants of health goals more effectively and
efficiently in the 21st century; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
recognizes the importance of updating our state data governance
models in order to facilitate effective and efficient fact-based
policymaking in the 21st century; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes the
importance of detailed and disaggregated data, including data
that disaggregates Native Hawaiians from other Pacific
Islanders, in pandemic response and recovery efforts for these
communities and for the State as a whole; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the
Department of Health, Department of Labor and Industrial
Relations, Department of Human Services, Judiciary, and county
departments to compile and share existing and
disaggregated data on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders
with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the general public in an
expeditious manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the same
departments to work with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Hawaii COVID-19 Response,
Recovery, and Resilience Team to develop procedures and
agreements for improving data collection, processing, retention,
governance, and sharing with respect to Native Hawaiians,
Pacific Islanders, and other relevant demographics, and to each
submit a report on their respective procedures and agreements to
the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
of the regular session of 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is urged to
establish a Task Force on 21st Century Data Governance,
consisting of the Director of the Office of Planning, the Chief
Information Officer of the Office of Enterprise Technology
Services, the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
Affairs, or their designees, and other relevant members to be
identified by the Task Force, to assess the current data
collection, processing, retention, and sharing procedures, needs, and challenges across state agencies and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, Director of Human Services, Chief Justice of the Judiciary, chiefs of police of the county police departments, Director of the State Office of Planning, Chief Information Officer of the Office of Enterprise Technology Services, and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

OFFERED BY: ______________________________

By Request