June 30, 2014

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kim, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 30, 2014, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1616 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO HEALTH PLANNING
ACT 155 (14)

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH PLANNING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the World Health Organization, the United States Department of Health and Human Services's Healthy People 2020 Initiative, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all recognize social determinants of health as the single most important factor in individual and population health outcomes, more so than genetic disposition or medical care. The legislature further finds that the Hawaii State Planning Act does not explicitly recognize social determinants of health as an important component of health planning.

The legislature also notes that the October 2013 report, "Assessment and Priorities for Health & Well-Being in Native Hawaiians & Other Pacific Peoples," by the John A. Burns school of medicine, identifies a number of social and other determinants of health for Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos, who collectively continue to have disparate health outcomes compared to the rest of the state population. The legislature finds that in recognition of the
special responsibilities and legal obligations to the indigenous
people of Hawaii, the federal government codified a commitment
to addressing the health status of Native Hawaiians and
providing Native Hawaiian health care programs with necessary
resources in title 42 United States Code section 11702. The
legislature further finds that the State has not made a similar
commitment.

The legislature finds that codifying a commitment to
reducing health disparities for Native Hawaiian and other groups
through a social determinants of health approach may directly
and indirectly improve health outcomes and the quality of life
for all residents of the State.

The purpose of this Act is to update the Hawaii State
Planning Act's objectives for health to include a dual
commitment to addressing Native Hawaiian health and eliminating
health disparities.

SECTION 2. Section 226-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended to read as follows:

"§226-20 Objectives and policies for socio-cultural
advancement--health. (a) Planning for the State's socio-
cultural advancement with regard to health shall be directed
towards achievement of the following objectives:
(1) Fulfillment of basic individual health needs of the
general public.

(2) Maintenance of sanitary and environmentally healthful
conditions in Hawaii's communities.

(3) Elimination of health disparities by identifying and
addressing social determinants of health.

(b) To achieve the health objectives, it shall be the
policy of this State to:

(1) Provide adequate and accessible services and
facilities for prevention and treatment of physical
and mental health problems, including substance abuse.

(2) Encourage improved cooperation among public and
private sectors in the provision of health care to
accommodate the total health needs of individuals
throughout the State.

(3) Encourage public and private efforts to develop and
promote statewide and local strategies to reduce
health care and related insurance costs.

(4) Foster an awareness of the need for personal health
maintenance and preventive health care through
education and other measures.
(5) Provide programs, services, and activities that ensure environmentally healthful and sanitary conditions.

(6) Improve the State's capabilities in preventing contamination by pesticides and other potentially hazardous substances through increased coordination, education, monitoring, and enforcement.

(7) Prioritize programs, services, interventions, and activities that address identified social determinants of health to improve Native Hawaiian health and well-being consistent with the United States Congress's declaration of policy as codified in title 42 United States Code section 11702, and to reduce health disparities of disproportionately affected demographics, including Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. The prioritization of affected demographic groups other than Native Hawaiians may be reviewed every ten years and revised based on the best available epidemiological and public health data."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
APPROVED this 30 day of JUN, 2014

Neil Abercrombie

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII