



HAWAI'I STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Leiopapa A Kamehameha Bldg.
235 South Beretania Street, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

May 5, 2021

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6143

Re: Responses to Questions related to the March 24, 2021 Hearing, "Honoring Equal Pay Day: Examining the Long-Term Economic Impacts of Gender Inequality"

Aloha:

Thank you for your letter of April 22, 2021 requesting responses to the questions related to the March 24, 2021 Hearing, "Honoring Equal Pay Day: Examining the Long-Term Economic Impacts of Gender Inequality." On behalf of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, please find my responses to the questions submitted by U.S. Representative Cori Bush:

1. Would direct payments to women and families working to make ends meet advance gender equity?

Children do not need fathers; they need cash and love. Direct payments to women, especially single mother households, would advance gender equity by offsetting the gender pay gap caused by gendered racist discrimination, lost hours due to caregiving/childrearing, career interruption, forced exodus from the workforce during COVID-19, and more. The lack of cash is dire: 80% of single moms in Hawai'i compared to 10% of single moms in Iceland cannot afford a barebones household budget. The difference in precarity between U.S. women and Icelandic women is political. Iceland provides quarterly, application-free direct payments to individuals with children under 18. According to the United Nation's Development Program, direct payments such as Iceland's child benefit are the most powerful tool for correcting the short-term harm of the COVID-19 crisis on women.

2. Would providing direct payments to women who are unpaid care workers, low-wage workers, and frontline workers help our communities recover from the coronavirus pandemic?

Direct payments to unpaid caregivers, rather than subsidies for market-based solutions, will help our communities recover from the coronavirus pandemic by alleviating financial distress and unequal power for caregivers. Direct payments are also important to allow low-wage and frontline workers to cover "kin care" (unpaid family caregivers) where public and private caregiving gaps exist. Direct payments will also be critical to recover lost income for caregivers who "voluntarily" left the workforce and were disqualified from unemployment benefits. Direct payments combined with an increase in the minimum wage would alleviate the care crisis by allowing for easier retention and recruitment of childcare providers, which would increase seats available. Government in Hawai'i already offers state subsidies to kin care, but this childcare category was the only group not to receive increased rates raised during the pandemic. Kin care rates are an insufficient \$400 per month in Hawai'i. Requiring states receiving childcare funds to increase kin care rates for unpaid caregivers would also advance a more equitable recovery.

Please feel free to contact me at 808-586-5757 or kjabola-carolus@dhs.hawaii.gov if you have further questions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Khara Jabola-Carolus, J.D.
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Amy Stratton, Deputy Chief Clerk, Amy.Stratton@mail.house.gov (w/enclosure)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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April 22, 2021

Ms. Khara Jabola-Carolus
Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women
235 South Beretania Street #407
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Ms. Jabola-Carolus:

Enclosed are questions that have been directed to you and submitted for the official record for the hearing on March 24, 2021, titled "Honoring 'Equal Pay Day': Examining the Long-Term Economic Impacts of Gender Inequality."

Please return your written responses to these questions by Thursday, May 6, 2021, including each question in full as well as the name of the member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Amy Stratton, Deputy Chief Clerk, at Amy.Stratton@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Elisa LaNier, Chief Clerk, at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member

Questions for Ms. Khara Jabola-Carolus
Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Questions from Rep. Cori Bush

March 24, 2021, Hearing: “Honoring ‘Equal Pay Day’: Examining the Long-Term Economic Impacts of Gender Inequality”

1. Would direct payments to women and families working to make ends meet advance gender equity?
2. Would providing direct payments to women who are unpaid care workers, low-wage workers, and frontline workers help our communities recover from the coronavirus pandemic?