

Questions for the Record by Democrat Members

Questions from Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva for Hon. Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Chair, Office of Hawaiian Affairs:

1. Many Members of this Subcommittee are more familiar with how the federal trust responsibility relates to American Indian and Alaska Native communities. However, your testimony outlines how the federal trust responsibility also applies to Native Hawaiians. To sum up, how does the federal trust relationship relate specifically to Native Hawaiian communities, and how is this relationship put into practice on-the-ground?
 - a. What would fulfilling this trust responsibility look like for Native Hawaiians in public emergencies and other large-scale crises?
2. Your testimony mentions the shortage of data regarding Native Hawaiian communities and how it has clouded the complete picture of their unique disparities and needs. Can you briefly elaborate on this problem?
 - a. In general, how have public health crises like COVID-19 further exacerbated this current issue?
 - b. What recommendations does the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) have for this issue on the federal level?
3. You mention that Native Hawaiian health organizations have identified the need for amendments to the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act to prepare Native Hawaiians for public health crises better.
 - a. Can you please briefly recap those suggested amendments and explain why they are necessary for comprehensive pandemic response efforts?
4. Your testimony also highlights the ongoing community efforts to promote and preserve Native Hawaiian languages.
 - a. How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted this work?
 - b. What additional support can Congress provide to these ongoing language preservation initiatives?