



MEDIA ADVISORY

January 9, 2023

Contact:

Commissioner Carlyle Begay

email@commissiononnativechildren.org

THE COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN WILL CONVENE IN HONOLULU, HI FEBRUARY 15–16 FOR THE HAWAII REGIONAL HEARING

Hawaii Regional Hearing — The Commission on Native Children will hold its Hawaii Regional Hearing February 15–16, 2023, both virtually and in-person in Honolulu, HI, at the Moana Surfrider, at 2365 Kalākaua Avenue. The Commission will hear from respected researchers and experts and the public on the successes and challenges in supporting Native Hawaiian children. This Regional Hearing will inform the Commission's recommendations on solutions that would improve the health, safety, and well-being of Native Hawaiian children.

Hearing Details

The Hawaii Regional Hearing is currently scheduled to be held simultaneously in-person and virtually on February 15 and 16. Both days comprise a series of expert panels on topics relevant to the commission. There will be two opportunities for public comment following the last panel on February 15 and following the panel on February 16.

Please register for each day's proceedings by clicking on the links below. Once registered, you will receive information on how to participate virtually and in-person.

- February 15, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
- Public Comments 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. HST
<https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArfu-rqD8vGtVzUWMPmS3mGCzmL0VXbmLs>
- February 16, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. HST
<https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtc-6tqzMuHNIm-bKmv77m0hieJsfUmk5A>

In-person hearing location:

**Moana Surfrider
The Parlor Room
2365 Kalākaua Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815**

Expert testimony will be given from the following panelists on four key topics:

- **Physical, mental, and behavioral health:** This session will increase the Commissioner's understanding of the systems of health services provisions available for Native Hawaiian children in the region (including physical, behavioral, and mental health, and traditional and cultural services).
- **Education and early childhood development:** This session will explore supporting Native Hawaiian students by incorporating Native Hawaiian language and culture into educational systems at all levels of education, and discuss the importance of early childhood programming

serving children 0–5 in Native Hawaiian communities like Head Start, childcare, pre-kindergarten, and home visiting.

- **Child welfare, juvenile justice, and violence:** This session is to explore the issues around child welfare in Native Hawaiian communities in the region, including improving state-local-Native Hawaiian collaboration, and building Native Hawaiian capacity to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect and related issues, and the efficacy of the juvenile justice system for Native Hawaiian children, youth and communities and the disproportionate rates of arrest, detention and incarceration among Native Hawaiian youth compared to non-Hispanic Whites.
- **Systems innovations and best practices in Native communities.** This session will highlight cross-system models, innovations, and best practices to meet the needs of Native Hawaiian children in a seamless and coordinated way.

The public can submit oral and written testimony, as well as questions, at any time to email@commissiononnativechildren.org.

To learn more, please visit <https://commissiononnativechildren.org/>. For media inquiries, contact Regina Gilbert: regina.gilbert@bia.gov.

Follow the Commission on Facebook at: [Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children](#), or on Twitter: [@asbwscnc](#).

###

About: The Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children was established by Congress as an independent federal entity charged with conducting a comprehensive study of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and developing recommendations on solutions that would improve the health, safety, and well-being of Native Children.

