

## Written Testimony

### ORAL TESTIMONY (OCBOS DISTRICT 1, FOUNTAIN VALLEY, AUGUST 4, 2021)

#### **Intro:**

Aloha. My name is Charlene Kazner. I am a Native Hawaiian and have been a resident of West Garden Grove for 43 years. I am testifying on behalf of Pacific Islander Health Partnership (PIHP) which is based in West Garden Grove. PIHP serves the Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in Orange County advocating for good health and well-being. As part of that work, we are involved in statewide and local redistricting as a member of the People's Redistricting Alliance.

#### **My community is:**

My communities of interest are Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, including Chamorro, Marshallese, Native Hawaiian, Samoan and Tongan communities. There are approximately 20,000 NHPIs living in Orange County. Approximately 1,200 NHPI's are located throughout West Garden Grove with over one dozen NHPI churches serving our community. NHPI businesses in West Garden Grove include community-based organizations, healthcare partnerships, dance studios, youth program groups and civic clubs.

#### **My community is located:**

In West Garden Grove. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are scattered throughout West Garden Grove and other cities throughout Orange County. There are pockets of NHPIs bordering Brookhurst on the west, Chapman on the north and Trask on the south. NHPI churches and establishments are located within this area. Many NHPIs enjoy the variety of foods from different cultures and this area of West Garden Grove and surrounding cities have many to offer.

#### **My community is similar to the following neighborhoods:**

West Garden Grove is similar to the cities of Westminster and Fountain Valley. Our cultures and socio-economics are similar. We share immigration issues and language barriers. More than 60% of households speak a language other than English. Many live in multi-generational households, 2, 3 or more generations per household. Many earn minimum wage and hold two or more jobs to make ends meet. Because of family demands many are forced to work right out of high school instead of going to college.

**My community is different from the following neighborhoods:**

The cities of Orange and Newport Beach differ from West Garden Grove. English is spoken in the majority of households and the median household income and high school attainment are higher, and foreign born is lower.

**What makes my community special is:**

We are a unique people from the different islands of the Pacific. We are often overlooked because our population is small. Our needs are masked when combined with the larger Asian American population, therefore, data disaggregation must be a priority to identify our specific needs so we can champion for meaningful and accurate data. NHPI's experienced some of the highest COVID-19 cases and death rates of all racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. so we advocate for programs that fund our community to combat the pandemic.

**In conclusion:**

Our community shops in West Garden Grove and the surrounding areas. We have built a strong partnership with Asian Americans and other communities in West Garden Grove, Westminster and Fountain Valley. We continue to work with them on many projects working in solidarity for the benefit of all. NHPIs are often overlooked because our population is small so it is important to keep us together so we have a strong, unified voice.

Mahalo nui loa, Thank you.

Charlene Kazner

Pacific Islander Health Partnership

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