

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF KAUAI

Resolution No. 2021-04

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND URGING
EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE PRINCIPLES
IN COVID-19 RELATED RECOVERY INITIATIVES**

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has magnified long-standing inequalities and the fragility of our social, political, and healthcare systems; and

WHEREAS, there is little difference in the number of men and women confirmed to be infected by COVID-19, but men are more likely to die from the novel coronavirus, while women are shown to be disproportionately affected by the pandemic because of their profession, as well as childcare and household responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2012-2016 industry analysis of Hawaii's working population by the State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT), women make up roughly fifty percent (50%) of Hawaii's workforce, but account for seventy-three and three tenths percent (73.3%) of the employees in the health care and social assistance sector, sixty-eight and four tenths percent (68.4%) of the educational services sector, sixty-five and three tenths percent (65.3%) of the finance and insurance sector, fifty-five and six tenths percent (55.6%) of retail trade, fifty-one and seven tenths percent (51.7%) of the real estate and rental and leasing industry, and forty-nine and seven tenths percent (49.7%) of the accommodation and food service industry; and

WHEREAS, the DBEDT report brings into sharp focus the fact that women hold a significant number of jobs that are critical to providing emergency and ongoing response support, as well as other key services during the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Women's Law Center, women account for fifty-six percent (56%) of all jobs lost since the start of the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, a research brief by Professor Gema Zamarro on gender differences in the impact of COVID-19 found that women carried a heavier load than men in providing childcare duties after schools closed, with forty-four percent (44%) of women versus fourteen percent (14%) of men reporting being the only one in the household providing care, and a notable disparity among working parents with thirty-three percent (33%) of working mothers reporting they were the only care provider for their children versus ten percent (10%) of working fathers; and

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association reported that national crises such as natural disasters and recent COVID-19 stay-at-home lockdown measures ramp up stress within households, increasing risk of domestic violence and child abuse because victims are “trapped” indoors with their abuser; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations (UN) released “The Impact of COVID-19 on Women,” a policy brief that emphasized the devastating consequences of the pandemic for women and girls, and identified three priorities that would have meaningful impact on women and girls—and society at large—if pursued: 1) ensure women’s equal representation in all COVID-19 response planning and decision-making; 2) drive transformative change for equality by addressing the care economy, paid and unpaid; and 3) target women and girls in all efforts to address the socio-economic impact of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) published “Building Bridges, Not Walking on Backs,” the nation’s first feminist economic recovery plan for COVID-19, which highlights numerous key and emerging principals and recommendations designed to build a system that is capable of delivering gender equality; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 represents an opportunity to spend federal stimulus dollars and enact meaningful policy in a way that is designed with gender equality in mind; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KAUA‘I, STATE OF HAWAII, that it supports a feminist economic recovery plan for the County of Kaua‘i.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it strongly urges the Administration to view this pandemic through a gendered lens and incorporate principles of equity, inclusion, and social and economic justice, championed in the UN report and HSCSW plan, into County-run COVID-19 programs, into language on County-printed materials and digital communications, as well as into County-initiated requests for proposals centered on COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it urges the Administration to recognize the specific vulnerability faced by women and girls in this pandemic and make every effort to proactively and consistently engage with the Kaua‘i County Committee on the Status of Women, as well as women and girls in our community, in order to inform COVID-19 related decisions.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to United States Senator Brian E. Schatz, United States Senator Mazie K. Hirono, United States Representative Ed Case, United States Representative Kaiiali'i Kahele, Governor David Y. Ige, Lt. Governor Josh Green, Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi, Representative Daynette "Dee" Morikawa, Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Representative James Kunane Tokioka, the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, the Kaua'i County Committee on the Status of Women, Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami, and the Administrative Head of each County department, agency, and office.

Introduced by:


 FELICIA COWDEN


 ARRYL KANESHIRO

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	Aye	Ray	Excused	Recused
Carvalho	X			
Chock	X			
Cowden	X			
DeCosta	X			
Ebslin	X			
Kaneshiro	X			
Kuali'i	X			
Total	7	0	0	0

Certificate Of Adoption

We hereby certify that Resolution No. 2021-04 was adopted by the Council of the County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i, Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i, on December 16, 2020.



 County Clerk



 Chairman & Presiding Officer

Dated December 16, 2020