To: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ohchr-registry@un.org

From: Hawaiʻi Institute for Human Rights
Re: Input for local government and human rights report
April 20, 2022

This input for the OHCHR report on Local Government and Human Rights comes from the Hawaiʻi Institute for Human Rights partnering with multiple movements in Hawaiʻi focusing on rights and resilience , working to support human rights organizing in cities and communities across islands of Hawaiʻi.

***1. Laws, policies and programmes that have been developed by local authorities explicitly to promote and protect human rights, including those related to the right to equality and non-discrimination and the protection of persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations.***

Hawaiʻi began in 2005 to utilize the global standards of human rights to deepen understanding of the inherent dignity of all peoples of Hawaiʻi. Hawaiʻi adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP) with active advocacy from youth and civil society. In 2014, Hawaiʻi was declared first ever State of Human Rights in the United States of America to ensure international human rights instruments were implemented in our islands. Since then, there have been efforts at the city/country council as well as Hawaiʻi state legislature to bring global human rights home on the ground in Hawaiʻi. Hawaiʻi has adopted CEDAW at Honolulu City Council and also at the Hawaiʻi Senate.

***2. Challenges faced by local human rights advocates and promising practices, to promote and protect human rights, including in relation to the right to equality and non-discrimination and the protection of persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations.***

Hawaiʻi had to begin with human rights education with elected officials. HIHR engages annually in providing testimony building greater awareness and action among elected officials. Hawaiʻi civil society began with the UN DRIP to address the colonial experience and legacy. Hawaiʻi NGOs also raised human rights through the Universal Periodic Review as well as the core UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies review procedures.

HIHR also began annual Human Rights Day to connect community with the capitol and build a culture of human rights across Hawaiʻi.

1. ***3. The following key principles should guide local and national governments in the promotion and protection of human rights.***

Hawaiʻi should continue its efforts to create a Hawaiʻi Human Rights Commission rooted in the Paris Principles. Hawaiʻi has consulted with NHRIs in the Asia-Pacific region.

HIHR also believes the UN Sustainable Development Goals are positive measurements especially with principle of Leave Noone Behind. Hawaiʻi has conducted a Voluntary Local Review bringing togather all civil society and government to partner together through 2020 VLR.