

SB3076

Measure Title:
RELATING TO EPIDEMIOLOGISTS.

Report Title:
Epidemiologists

Description:
Authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to create permanent or temporary exempt epidemiologist positions.

Package:
Governor

Companion:
HB3154

Introducer(s):
HANABUSA (BR)

Current Referral:
HTH, WAM

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

SB 3076, Relating to Epidemiologists

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 8, 2008, 1:15 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department strongly supports this Administration bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure would allow the Department to establish and fill
4 epidemiologist positions, without regard to chapters 76 and 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The current
5 civil service epidemiological specialist position series is not sufficient for recruiting and retaining staff
6 with the technical expertise and multidisciplinary skills necessary to build and maintain the
7 Department's capacity for public health surveillance and response. Epidemiologists function at a higher
8 level than epidemiological specialists, designing studies to address recurring public health problems
9 unique to our environment, collaborating with University colleagues to conduct applied research,
10 designing and evaluating health surveillance systems, and synthesizing the results of surveillance,
11 investigations, and new scientific developments for use by public health decision-makers.

12 Our citizens need highly qualified, experienced epidemiologists to protect the State from new
13 and re-emerging diseases and to interrupt outbreaks rapidly, to minimize their impact on our people and
14 economic environment.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.