

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony SUPPORTING HB2260
Relating to Health

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 10, 2016, 8:30 a.m. Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure. Only
3 through a combination of financing support, building a new facility, support in rebuilding
4 community programs, and fundamental policy changes will Hawaii be able to effectively address
5 the needs of its citizens, the operation of the Hawai`i State Hospital (HSH), and be able to
6 provide an effective continuum of mental health supports. Separately, we will be addressing
7 measures the Governor and others have introduced regarding policy and staffing challenges.
8 Clearly, all three branches of government play a critical role in making this system function
9 effectively.

10 The purpose of the measure is to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for
11 the years 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to design and construct a new state mental
12 hospital to replace the HSH in Kāneʻohe.

13 The time has come for the construction of a new, state of the art, secure building to house
14 the increasing number of high risk forensic patients ordered by the courts into the HSH. The

1 current configuration of the HSH was constructed for a very different type of patient than the
2 forensic population which occupies the facility today. The average daily census is up, the
3 number of admissions is up, the number of individuals admitted with felony charges is up, and
4 the available bed capacity at the hospital has not changed since 1992. The available overflow
5 capacity of our contracted vendor is full. Simply put, there is basically “no more room at the
6 inn.”

7 Stated another way, the number of individuals and the severity of their charges have
8 exceeded the available physical space available in which to house and treat them for a significant
9 amount of time. Our data projects continued growth at the same, or even increased, rate for the
10 foreseeable future. Our state really needs a new facility.

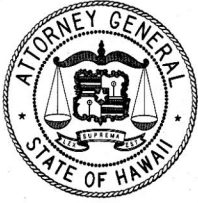
11 The HSH Master Plan, originally completed in 2005, and updated in 2015, calls for the
12 design and construction of a 144 bed secure patient care facility to house and treat higher risk
13 patients. The new facility will have treatment, activity, and dining facilities within its perimeter,
14 minimizing the need for patients to be outside the building for any reason. This design will
15 allow the segregation of the patients with the most challenging behaviors, resulting in increased
16 safety for patients and staff. The security features of the new building, including a highly secure
17 exterior wall and a high security fencing system, will significantly reduce the risk of patient
18 escape, and contribute to increased safety for the community. The design features of the interior
19 of the building provides clear sight lines throughout the floor plan, resulting in decreased risk of
20 patients harming themselves, other patients, or assaulting hospital staff.

1 Within the Governor’s Message, a Capital Improvement Project request for \$160.5
2 million has been made for this project. The funding is requested to be received in one lump sum
3 in advance, due to the proposed “design/build” process which is planned to be used for the
4 construction.

5 The DOH supports the passage of this bill with revised language. As currently written,
6 this bill cannot be passed into law because general obligation bonds cannot be appropriated past
7 the current biennium year. We recommend that the bill be modified to include similar language
8 and provisions stated in SB2471.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

10 **Offered Amendments:** None.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
H.B. NO. 2260, RELATING TO HEALTH.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 **TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Andrea J. Armitage, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports the intent of this bill but prefers the provisions of Senate Bill No. 2471, and recommends the inclusion of those provisions in this bill.

This measure authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds in various amounts for fiscal years 2016 – 2017, 2017 – 2018, and 2018 – 2019 for the purpose of planning, designing, and constructing a new hospital facility at the Hawai'i State Hospital. The funds are to be expended by the Department of Health. All moneys from the appropriations unencumbered as of June 30, 2019, shall lapse on that date.

We support the Department of Health's efforts to design and construct a new hospital facility on the footprint of the Goddard Building on the Hawai'i State Hospital campus, as soon as possible. Therefore, we concur with the Department of Health's position that the provisions in Senate Bill No. 2471, which also authorizes general obligation bonds to fund the new facility at Hawai'i State Hospital, is preferable because obligation bonds in the amount of \$165,000,000 will be appropriated up front during this fiscal year, so the design-build contract can be executed as soon as possible. That bill provides:

SECTION 1. The director of finance is authorized to issue general obligation bonds in the sum of \$165,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the purpose of designing and constructing a new state mental hospital to replace the Hawaii state hospital in Kaneohe as follows:

Department of health,

Design and construction for new
state mental health hospital.

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Design | \$ 15,000,000 |
| Construction | 150,000,000 |
| Total funding | \$165,000,000 |

SECTION 2. The appropriation made for the capital improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2018, shall lapse as of that date.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.