

HB2403, HD1

TESTIMONY



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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State Capitol, Room 229

H.B. 2403, H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Senate Committee(s) on Transportation and Energy &
Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

The Department of Transportation **strongly supports** with an amendment this Administration bill to modify the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) membership. By section 286-4.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the MAB must include one psychiatrist, one neurologist, one orthopedic surgeon, one ophthalmologist or optometrist, and one specialist in cardiovascular disease. During a recent recruitment effort, the department found it impossible to enlist the services of an orthopedic surgeon and a specialist in cardiovascular disease, because the schedules of these people is always full.

This bill proposes to change the required composition of the board. We find that having five members is practical and efficient. However, given the lack of volunteer representatives for the orthopedic surgeon and specialist in cardiovascular disease the current members of the board recommended looking at the MAB positions broadly by including physicians with an interest in one or more of the following: endocrinology, geriatrics and/or addiction medicine. In addition to being suitable replacements they can represent the perspective of their professions and the interest of the broader community.

The intent of amending this statute is to ensure that there is always a majority of members at MAB meetings and that they can make fair decisions for everyone seeking MAB approval.

The amendment we request is to change the effective date from July 1, 2030 to "upon approval."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.