

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

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H.B. 2403
RELATING TO THE MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation **strongly supports** 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.

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 it is recommended to look 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.

This amendment is intended 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.