



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**WRITTEN  
ONLY**

Testimony Commenting on HCR164  
**REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, GOVERNOR OF HAWAII, HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, AND FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO PROACTIVELY WORK TOWARD PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE ZIKA VIRUS.**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 28, 2016

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health offers comments supporting the intent of
- 3 HCR164. On February 12, 2016, Governor Ige proclaimed an emergency in response to
- 4 mosquito borne diseases including but not limited to dengue virus, Zika virus, and Chikungunya
- 5 virus, that was first identified in the County of Hawaii in October 2015.
- 6 The Governor and Director of Health concur that the most effective means to respond to respond
- 7 to the public health emergency caused by an outbreak of any mosquito borne disease is to
- 8 educate the public and promote the management, removal and destruction of mosquito larval
- 9 habitats in and around places of human habitation, as well as the use of protective barriers in the
- 10 form of repellants and clothing.
- 11 HCR164 may clarify priorities and enhance messaging from county and state government, as
- 12 well as the Congressional delegation, to assure public safety and adequate resources to control
- 13 and eradicate mosquito borne diseases. DOH continues to consult with state and federal
- 14 partners, such as the Hawaii Department of Transportation and US Centers for Disease Control
- 15 and Prevention to inform the emerging national conversation on Zika virus, in particular
- 16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

FROM: George Hui Ph.D.  
Research Professor, Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology  
University of Hawaii School of Medicine

DATE: Monday, March 28, 2016  
2:16pm, Conference Room 329

RE: Support for HCR164/HR114 - Requesting the President of the United States, Governor of Hawaii, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Federal Aviation Administration to proactively work toward prevention and control of the Zika virus.

The explosive global emergence of Zika virus infections requires unprecedented efforts to meet this public health challenge. The State of Hawaii with its diverse population is situated at the crossroad of the Pacific. With millions of visitors from both east and west of the Pacific arriving at the islands each year, our residents are especially vulnerable to infectious diseases like Zika virus, which with the advent of modern transportations can bring these threats to our doorsteps in no time.

We are fortunate that there is expertise within our Great State of Hawaii, at the Department of Health and at the University to provide a concerted rapid response to the Zika virus global epidemic; particularly in areas of vector control, rapid diagnostics, and vaccine prevention. I urge that resources and infrastructure support be made available such that our scientists and healthcare workers can immediately ramp up all necessary countermeasures to prevent the Zika virus in gaining a foothold within our borders. Any measure falling short of a decisive and overwhelming response will put our residents at risk, let alone the potential of collapsing a vibrant tourist industry which we are so heavily dependent on.

Date: March 27, 2016

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

FROM: Vivek R. Nerurkar, D.M.L.T., M.Sc., Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair, Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology  
Director, JABSOM Biocontainment Facility

DATE: Monday, March 28, 2016  
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I enthusiastically support the **HCR164/HR114** to request the-

- Federal Government to include Zika virus under other communicable diseases to isolate infected people
- Seek funding for and mount an aggressive vector control effort minimize *Aedes* species of mosquitoes on the Big Island and other Hawaiian Islands
- Aggressively promote Zika virus signs and symptoms awareness to local physicians, antenatal clinics, hospitals, and FAA
- Develop protocol(s) for the potential isolation of infected airline passengers and public
- Pursue federal funding to fight the vectors of the Zika virus and to limit spread of the disease by vectors or sexual transmission
- Identify barriers and expedite research on Zika virus conducted at the University of Hawaii, by Biotech Companies in Hawaii and other organizations in the State of Hawaii
- Form a task force to identify barriers that Hawaii business and university professors face in developing entrepreneurial business models in biotechnology to combat Zika and dengue viruses infections, and recommend specific actions to address these barriers.

Tropical infectious diseases are among the most important public-health problems facing most countries in the Asia-Pacific region, being a major cause of morbidity and mortality, as well as crippling economic loss. Moreover, all of the global public-health emergencies in the past 15 years have originated in Asia (i.e., plague in India, 1994; Hong Kong flu, 1997; Nipah virus encephalitis, 1999; SARS, 2003; and avian influenza, 2004-2005).

Hawaii is not immune to imported tropical infectious diseases. Followed by the 2001 and 2011 dengue outbreak, Hawaii experienced a major outbreak of dengue in 2015-2016. These imported cases of dengue in Hawaii and recent cases of Zika virus among local residents begs us to implement strategies for keeping Zika virus out of Hawaii and to conduct much-needed research on Zika virus disease in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your support.

Aloha.



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2016 1:14 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** hedgesew@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR164 on Mar 28, 2016 14:16PM

**HCR164**

Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 28, 2016 14:16PM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jerris Hedges	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We must be proactive regarding monitoring and responding to the Zika virus outbreak we are experiencing. This is vital for the health of our population and the visitors to Hawaii. Jerris Hedges, MD

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 12:32 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HCR164 on Mar 28, 2016 14:16PM\*

Categories: Blue Category

**HCR164**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 28, 2016 14:16PM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair, Committee on Health

FROM: Richard Yanagihara, M.D., M.P.H.  
Professor, Department of Pediatrics  
Director, Pacific Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases Research  
John A. Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

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Almost no month passes without being reminded about the enormous toll of human suffering from emerging infectious diseases. Hawaii is now experiencing the third major locally transmitted outbreak of dengue fever, since 2001. The mosquito vectors for dengue virus are the same as those for Zika virus, which is now epidemic in Brazil and elsewhere in South America and Central America, as well as in the Pacific Basin (French Polynesia, Tonga and Samoa). Of particular concern is that Zika virus infection among pregnant women has been associated with the development of congenital neurological disorders, including microcephaly and blindness.

With its year-round, mild tropical weather, Hawaii serves as a principal U.S. gateway and as a major tourist destination for people worldwide. It is also home to some of the Nation's most important Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps bases. Thus, the heavy tourist traffic from the Americas, Asia and Europe and the presence of strategic military assets places Hawaii at high risk for natural introductions of infectious diseases. As such, Hawaii is at high risk for the introduction of Zika virus, and the attendant risk of Zika virus-associated microcephaly and other neurological sequelae. The very low level of existing immunity against Zika virus among local residents and in populations in most other parts of the world would predict explosive epidemics following Zika virus introduction. Thus, preventive measures, including the control of mosquito breeding sites, are urgently needed to protect the public health, particularly pregnant women and women of child-bearing ages.

We respectfully request that proactive measures to prevent Zika virus introduction and to control Zika virus spread be taken with the utmost urgency.