



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 818
Relating to Tuberculosis Testing**

JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 4, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports SB 818 with amendments. This Bill
3 supports including “interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) tuberculosis blood tests in addition to the
4 Mantoux tuberculin skin test for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of tuberculosis examination.”
5 The Department is in the process of updating Chapter 164, Hawaii Administrative Rules to modify
6 screening requirements and allow other forms of TB testing that are Food and Drug Administration
7 (FDA)-approved and Centers for Communicable Disease and Prevention (CDC)-recommended for
8 inclusion in determining tuberculosis infection. This Bill may enable faster inclusion of these tests.

9 **Offered Amendments:** The Department recommends that “FDA-approved, CDC-recommended tests for
10 TB infection” replace “interferon-gamma release assay tuberculosis blood test” in this Bill to 1) ensure
11 that only appropriate IGRA tests are used, and 2) enable future use of other tests that would be
12 acceptable.

13 On page 2, line 13 and 14, we recommend including both administrative rules and law in this bill. When
14 there is a conflict between law and administrative rules, law always trumps administrative rules so there
15 is support for both without diminishing either.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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Date: 02/04/2015
Time: 01:15 PM
Location: CR414
Committee: Senate Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0818 RELATING TO TUBERCULOSIS TESTING.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the department of health to accept tuberculosis (TB) blood tests in addition to the TB skin test for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of TB examination. Amends the law requiring tuberculosis clearance prior to public school entry to be in accordance with law rather than with department of health rules. Clarifies that the Department of Health's administrative rules regarding the use of the Mantoux tuberculin skin test or chest x-rays in obtaining a certificate of tuberculosis examination shall remain in effect until amended to include the addition of TB blood tests as an acceptable TB diagnostic.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 818. The Department will work with the Department of Health to implement this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.