



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony SUPPORTING HB2493 HD1
RELATING TO EPIDEMIOLOGISTS.**

REPRESNATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 21, 2018

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports HB2493 HD1 as
3 drafted, but recommends technical amendments to facilitate more timely enactment.

4 Epidemiologists are unique to public health. DOH deploys epidemiologists to effectively track
5 and characterize emergent disease outbreaks such as those caused by dengue, hepatitis A,
6 norovirus, or mumps by using various tools (e.g., GIS mapping, online survey tools) to analyze
7 data to determine specific risks, identify potential or specific etiologic agents, or guide public
8 health interventions. Epidemiologists also analyze longer term trends, using environmental,
9 health care, chronic disease, mental health, and substance abuse data including the injuries and
10 deaths related to opioid misuse and abuse, to inform public policy and department operations.

11 **Offered Amendment:**

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect [~~on July 1, 3000.~~]
13 upon approval.

14

HB-2493-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 4:28:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Muriah Moises	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2493-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 5:29:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments: