



Date: March 29, 2018

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute

Re: **Support for HB 2493 HD2 Relating to Epidemiologists**

Hrg: March 29, 2018 at 10:50 am at Conference Room 211

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 2493 HD2, Relating to Epidemiologists.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a healthy Hawai'i. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawai'i the healthiest place to live.

Currently, the Department of Health Director is limited to establishing only up to ten permanent or temporary positions for epidemiologists. This bill would provide the director of health with operational flexibility lifting this restriction.

Epidemiologists provide a critical function for the Department of Health (DOH). Epidemiologists track and characterize emergent disease outbreaks and analyze long-term trends. Information Epidemiologists provide is critical to inform public policy and department operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
Executive Director