



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2606.  
RELATING TO TROPIC CARE.**

REP. JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Hearing Date: February 13, 2018      Room Number: 329

- 1    **Fiscal Implications:** \$20,000 general fund appropriation to the Department of Health.
- 2    **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health acknowledges the value and interest in the  
3    Tropic Care exercise, which brings much needed health care services to rural residents at no cost  
4    to patients while assuring deployment readiness for the armed forces. In general, this exercise is  
5    known as Innovate Readiness Training (IRT), and the Department of Health is grateful for the  
6    interest of the Legislature in providing funds.
- 7    Tropic Care 2018 is scheduled for June 16-28 at Keaau High School, and the department  
8    continues to work with the Hawaii County Council and other stakeholders to assure another  
9    successful deployment. However, if enacted, the appropriations will take effect after completion  
10   of this year's IRT. The Big Island conducts an IRT's only every other year and has not  
11   submitted an application for 2019. The next exercise is planned for 2020, for which the  
12   application is due this September. The department will continue to work with the Legislature  
13   and Big Island delegation to assure the event's continuity.
- 14   **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 12, 2018

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 2606 Relating Tropic Care**  
**Hearing Date: 02/13/18 – 10:15 am; House Conference Room 329**

Hawai'i faces a major crisis in healthcare, and I want to thank you and the authors of HB 2606 for bringing the idea of Tropic Care forward. I confess that I am not as familiar with Tropic Care as I should be, but I am told it is an outstanding program. Moreover, every innovative approach helps to alleviate our shortage of healthcare providers and is welcomed.

I appreciate your hearing HB 2606, and hope you will act favorably on it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

**HB-2606**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 8:18:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2606**

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 7:15:12 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments: