



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2800 S.D. 2
RELATING TO THE SHARING OF VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS WITH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROGRAM EMPLOYEES FOR APPROVED
RESEARCH PURPOSES.**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Hearing Date: March 15, 2018 Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** There are no fiscal implications for the Department of Health (DOH).
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department **strongly supports** this measure, which is part of the
3 Governor’s Administrative Package, that will enable the DOH to assure the privacy of vital
4 records while providing limited sharing of vital statistics records with DOH program employees
5 with approval from the department’s institutional review committee.
- 6 This measure will enable the department to conduct the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring
7 System (PRAMS) research study to identify and monitor selected maternal experiences and
8 behaviors that occur before, during and after pregnancy and during the child’s early infancy.
- 9 The Hawaii PRAMS started with a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded
10 pilot project in 1999 and subsequently received funding in 2000 to begin data collection.
11 Currently in its eighteenth year of operations, the Hawaii PRAMS is one of fifty-one CDC
12 funded states, tribes and territories that require vital records in the form of a monthly birth
13 certificate file. Vital records are a critical piece of the National PRAMS Protocol and without it,
14 the efforts of Hawaii PRAMS would cease.
- 15 We ask you to move this bill forward, with one small correction. Please replace the word
16 “section” on page 2, line 18, of the new section, with the word “chapter”. Changing this term
17 will allow for consistent definition of “research purposes” throughout chapter 338 Hawaii
18 Revised Statutes and not just within the new section.

- 1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.



March 15, 2018

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **SB 2800, SD2 – Relating to the Sharing of Vital Statistics Records with Department of Health Program Employees for Approved Research Purposes**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, March 15, 2018, 10:00 AM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support SB 2900, SD2, which would authorize the Department of Health to disclose public health statistics records internally within the Department for approved research purposes.

This measure is necessary to allow the Department of Health to conduct the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System research to identify and monitor selected maternal experiences and behaviors that occur before, during, and after pregnancy and during the child's early infancy. Access to quality data such as public health statistics records is critical in gaining a more comprehensive understanding of issues impacting maternal and children's health, and developing positive program and policy decisions to produce better outcomes for children.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests your Committee to support this measure.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Thursday, March 15, 2018; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 2800, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO THE SHARING OF VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS WITH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROGRAM EMPLOYEES FOR APPROVED RESEARCH PURPOSES.

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 2800, Senate Draft 2, RELATING TO THE SHARING OF VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS WITH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROGRAM EMPLOYEES FOR APPROVED RESEARCH PURPOSES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Allow the Department of Health (DOH) to disclose public health statistics records to persons who are employed by DOH programs, acting within the scope of their employment, who need a public health statistics record for research purposes, as approved by the DOH's Institutional Review Committee (Committee); and
- (2) Clarify DOH may disclose the following information:
 - (A) Names, addresses, and contact information in the record for the purpose of contacting persons identified in the record to request informed consent to use additional specified information in the record; and
 - (B) Information in the record as approved by the Committee under certain conditions;
- (3) Provide that information disclosed may only be redisclosed with authorization from the institutional review committee or if the record has been redacted of identifying personal information; and

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(4) Take effect on January 1, 2035, to facilitate continued discussions.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

HPCA fully and wholeheartedly supports efforts to promote research on public health for the prevention of disease in the State of Hawaii.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.