

SB2800

- Measure Title:** RELATING TO THE SHARING OF VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS WITH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROGRAM EMPLOYEES FOR APPROVED RESEARCH PURPOSES.
- Report Title:** Vital Statistics Records; Disclosure within the Department for Approved Research Purposes
- Description:** Authorizes the Department of Health to disclose public health statistics records internally within the Department of Health for approved research purposes. Permits the Department of Health to disclose information from a public health statistics record for the purpose of contacting persons identified in the record to request further information. If consent is obtained, additional information from the record may be disclosed. Information may also be disclosed when the Department's institutional review committee determines that obtaining consent is impracticable and the public health purpose outweighs the confidentiality interest in the record.
- Companion:** [HB2373](#)
- Package:** Governor
- Current Referral:** CPH, JDC
- Introducer(s):** KOUCHI (Introduced by request of another party)



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

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 8, 2018 Room Number: 229

- 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 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
- 16 **Offered Amendments: None.**



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Thursday, February 8, 2018; 09:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

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

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, 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, 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.

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.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2800

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HPCA fully and wholeheartedly supports efforts to promote research on public health for the prevention of disease in the State of Hawaii. However, from a technical standpoint, we note that Chapter 92F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Uniform Information Practices Act, regulates the manner in which government records may be accessed by the public. Despite this, there is no cross-reference or exemption from Chapter 92F, HRS, found in the bill as presently drafted. As such, there may be a need to clarify the treatment under Chapter 92F, HRS, of records approved by the Committee and authorized for disclosure.

In addition, we note the specificity of the bill's title and question whether it may be too narrow for the subject matter in the bill as presently drafted.

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