



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB898
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

REP. SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 26, 2019

Room Number: 308

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

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the repeal of the Board of Health
3 for two primary reasons.

4 The first is that the entire Board has been vacant for the past several years due to a lack of
5 interest from members willing to serve. Section 26-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, established 11
6 members appointed by the Governor, but despite recruitment efforts the department has been
7 unable to convene a Board that meets quorum.

8 The second justification is that an advisory board for a centralized state public health agency is
9 no longer necessary due to the evolution of state and federal regulations, community standards of
10 practice, grant guidance, and legislative oversight.

11 Boards of Health often add value to local or municipal jurisdictions on the mainland where they
12 often have supervision, enforcement, and policy-making authority. However, the scope of the
13 Hawaii Department of Health is too broad and complex – spanning public health, behavioral
14 health, and environmental protection – for meaningful advisement by a generalist board

15 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

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