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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1121 SD2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.**

REP. JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 14, 2019

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined general fund appropriation. The department respectfully
2 recommends a range from \$50,000 - \$100,000.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health endorse the concept of Health in All
4 Policies and welcomes additional resources to assure department assessment, regulatory, and
5 advocacy authorities are aligned. Support for additional funds, however, is contingent on
6 priorities of the Executive Budget Request not being supplanted or replaced.

7 Although DOH routinely updates statutes through the Governor's Administration Package,
8 among other means, there has not been a holistic look at the span of department code for at least
9 ten years. In 1989, the department published the State Functional Health Plan, and more recently
10 DOH has participated in state health assessment activities as well as health care transformation
11 planning, which update goals and objectives but not necessarily statute and rules.

12 Therefore, the opportunity for a comprehensive review and update is generally welcome. That
13 said, and while DOH has most influence over its own statute, there may be greater health policy
14 yield by engaging other agencies or chapters of Hawaii Revised Statutes.

15 Education and engagement of other agencies is critical. Regulatory authority outside of DOH
16 statute such as professional licensing, procurement policy, and land use – to name a few – have
17 incredible influence over risk and protective factors. The Legislature may consider broader
18 participation with multiple agencies, or perhaps one fundamental issue that spans jurisdictions

1 such as transportation or agriculture policy. One promising practice associated with Health in
2 All Policies frameworks is the Health Impact Assessment (HIA), which is defined by the CDC as
3 “a process that helps evaluate the potential health effects of a plan, project, or policy before it is
4 built or implemented. HIA brings potential positive and negative public health impacts and
5 considerations to the decision-making process for plans, projects, and policies that fall outside
6 traditional public health arenas, such as transportation and land use. An HIA provides practical
7 recommendations to increase positive health effects and minimize negative health effects.”

8 Local advocacy entities have conducted HIAs in recent years funded by the Robert Wood
9 Johnson Foundation. It may be an equally potent opportunity to examine the value of HIA in
10 public works and public policy initiatives, compared to an internal Department of Health review
11 of powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities in the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

12 Both ideas have merit and would require funding.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB1121 SD2.

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

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