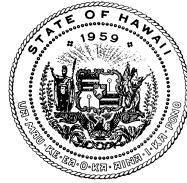


# SB 1383

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.
Report Title:	Board of Health; Department of Health
Description:	Abolishes the board of health.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH
Introducer(s):	S. CHANG (Introduced by request of another party)



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1383**  
**RELATING TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 6, 2019

Room Number: 329

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 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB1383.

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

17

**SB-1383**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 12:17:34 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB1383, The state of Hawaii and the DOH need to do a better job the filling boards positions. To have the department of health decisions made by one or two people is leaving grande decision making in a vacume of thought. The department of health needs a sounding board and a committee to keep as a voice of reason and understanding of complex issues.

**SB-1383**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:47:34 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
T O	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Eliminating the Board of Health will lead to less transparency of the Department of Health and less accountability similar to that organizational structure of the Department of Education. Having one individual responsible for making policy decisions will set a dangerous precedent and will jeopardize the community at large. This is a continuation of the trend established by SB1138 enacted in 2013 by this legislature allowing the DOH to make administrative rules and regulations with minimal public input and participation related to vaccinations.

I strongly oppose SB 1383.