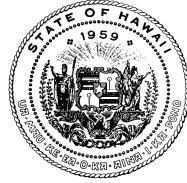


# SCR162 / SR128

Measure Title:	REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, AND OTHER RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE DNA STUDY TO DETERMINE WHETHER RESIDENTS OF THE STATE WITH THE GENETIC VARIANT RS12252-C MAY BE AT A HEIGHTENED RISK OF INFLUENZA.
Report Title:	Influenza; Study; Mitigation Planning; Department of Health; University of Hawaii
Description:	
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH/HRE, WAM
Introducer(s):	KEITH-AGARAN, BAKER, DELA CRUZ, FEVELLA, K. RHOADS, S. Chang, English, Kanuha, J.Keohokalole, Kidani, Nishihara, Ruderman, Shimabukuro, Wakai



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

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SCR162**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, AND**  
**OTHER RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES TO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE DNA**  
**STUDY TO DETERMINE WHETHER RESIDENTS OF THE STATE WITH THE**  
**GENETIC VARIANT RS12252-C MAY BE AT A HEIGHTENED RISK OF**  
**INFLUENZA**

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Hearing Date: 3/20/2019 Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH), including the Disease Outbreak Control  
2 Division (DOCD) and State Laboratories Division (SLD) do not have the capacity to dedicate  
3 resources for the study design and implementation of such a study. Funds to implement this  
4 study would be needed over a long term (i.e., years) to cover the costs of potential new staff  
5 positions, study subject recruitment, additional laboratory equipment, and supplies.
- 6 **Department Testimony:** DOH does not recommend conducting such a study proposed by this  
7 measure. Influenza is a common respiratory infection that can lead to severe complications,  
8 hospitalization, and death. Although there are some who are at risk of developing serious  
9 influenza-related complications, anyone can get influenza. The promotion of influenza  
10 vaccination as the most effective way to prevent flu is the primary prevention message of DOH.  
11 An annual flu vaccine is recommended for all individuals six months and older. DOH also  
12 implements educational strategies and provides information to the public (residents and tourists),  
13 schools, and medical facilities on the importance of influenza vaccination, personal hygiene  
14 habits, and taking antivirals when prescribed to prevent disease transmission. In the event of an  
15 influenza pandemic, DOH mitigation strategies focus on vaccinating as many people as quickly  
16 as possible.

1 The results of such a study examining the risk of individuals with a genetic predisposition to  
2 increased risk of influenza are unlikely to affect our recommendations and public health  
3 strategies moving forward for both seasonal and pandemic influenza.

4 Conducting this study would require additional staff to dedicate time in researching this topic  
5 (i.e., previous studies, genetic background information), recruiting and enrolling study  
6 participants, acquiring necessary approvals, and tracking of data. There is also currently no test  
7 approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the rs12252-C genetic variant.

8 Conducting a study of this genetic variant and its potential associations is more appropriate as a  
9 research proposal for an academic environment and would require years to examine.

10 DOCD is dedicated to monitoring, investigating, preventing, and controlling infectious diseases  
11 occurring acutely in Hawaii. The Department will continue to strongly recommend influenza  
12 vaccination to the public and provide education about influenza and other respiratory diseases.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.