



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

Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1201
RELATING TO HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 14, 2019 Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill proposes a general fund appropriation of \$1,000,000 for
2 Department of Health (DOH) lead poisoning prevention activities. The Department supports the
3 appropriation so long as it does not replace or supplant the Governor's Executive Biennium
4 Budget requests.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully offers comments on H.B. 1201 to keep
6 Hawaii's children safe from lead hazards and lead poisoning by supporting comprehensive
7 outreach by DOH to community agencies, health care providers, and families.

8 There is no safe level of lead. Exposure to lead is a significant and widespread environmental
9 hazard for children in Hawaii. Exposure to lead can increase the risks for damage to the brain
10 and nervous system; slow growth and development; result in learning, behavioral, hearing and
11 speech problems; and can negatively impact a child's school readiness and school performance.

12 Hawaii data for 2016-2018 showed that annually an average of 200 children under age 6 years,
13 residing in all counties, were identified with elevated blood lead levels. However, the full extent
14 of lead-exposed children is not known, since data indicate that only 15-30% of children have
15 been tested. Lead sources in Hawaii include lead-based paint in homes built before 1978, take-
16 home exposure from workplaces, consumer products, lead fishing sinkers, and other sources.

17 After a 14-year lapse in federal funding, the Hawaii Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
18 Program (HI-CLPPP) was re-established in September 2017, through a three-year cooperative
19 agreement from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (approximately

1 \$400,000 annually). Current CDC funding ends September 2020.

2 With the CDC funding, HI-CLPPP is working to: 1) increase the number of children under age 6
3 years who receive blood lead level testing; 2) provide follow-up with doctors and families of
4 children with elevated blood lead levels; 3) implement a Maven software lead surveillance and
5 monitoring system; 4) provide education and outreach to families, programs serving young
6 children, health care providers, and communities; and 5) provide updated website
7 (<https://lead.hawaii.gov>) information. HI-CLPPP is coordinating with other DOH programs
8 including the Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office, Indoor and
9 Radiological Health Branch/Lead-Based Paint Program, Public Health Nursing Branch, and
10 other agencies and stakeholders on lead-related issues and services.

11 The CDC funding does not allow for equipment and supplies needed for the environmental
12 assessment of homes of children with elevated blood lead levels and to assist families in the
13 clean-up of lead-contaminated dust or particles in their homes. The CDC funding also cannot be
14 used for surveys such as drinking water at schools and child care centers or paint condition at
15 child care centers built before 1978 to identify potential sources of lead, so that efforts could be
16 made to prevent children from having further lead exposure. Time-limited federal CDC funding
17 does not give the program the ability to establish permanent positions. Short-term federal
18 funding does not allow stability for the current exempt HI-CLPPP positions which are essential
19 for program activities and coordinating a long-term strategy to eliminate childhood lead
20 poisoning in Hawaii.

21 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully suggests an amendment to Section 2
22 should this measure move forward: “There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the
23 State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
24 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021
25 to carry out the purposes of this Act, including the establishment, hiring, and filling of four full-
26 time equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions for childhood lead poisoning prevention activities.”

27 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-1201

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 11:06:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/14/2019 9:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: