



STATE OF HAWAII
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Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 139, H.D. 2
RELATING TO HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 4, 2020

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Any fiscal impact will depend on federal plans for passenger screening and
2 other activities. We anticipate requesting federal funds to support any such federal initiatives to
3 minimize the direct fiscal burden on the state. Staff time and effort will likely be required to
4 support any efforts and may impact disease surveillance and investigations.

5 **Department Testimony:** Currently, there are no cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (also
6 called 2019-nCoV) identified in Hawaii. The Department of Health (DOH) is working with
7 federal, state, and local partners to support screening of novel coronaviruses and other emerging
8 pathogens of high consequence. These partners include the medical community, the Centers for
9 Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the CDC Honolulu Quarantine Station (DGMQ), airport
10 partners, state and clinical laboratories, public and private schools, and the Hawaii Tourism
11 Authority.

12 In addition to screening, DOH is also committed to providing the most up to date information as
13 the 2019-nCoV situation evolves. Public health efforts to inform and protect our community
14 have included a Medical Advisory to healthcare providers, press release, press conferences, and
15 continual updates to DOH webpages on 2019-nCoV as new information and resources become
16 available. These webpages provide general information and background on the current situation
17 (<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019/>), an FAQ (i.e., frequently
18 asked questions; https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2020/01/2019_nCoV_FAQ.pdf), and updates for
19 healthcare providers (<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/for-healthcare-providers/news-updates/>).
20 DOH has created a preliminary informational flyer

1 (<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2020/01/2019-nCoV-flyer-what-you-need-to-know.pdf>) for
2 the public to download and disseminate. We are developing more resources to help inform our
3 community. DOH staff are also available to answer questions by phone from the public and
4 healthcare providers.

5 DOH will continue to work with partners to screen for cases of 2019-nCoV and provide current
6 information to the public and healthcare providers.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-139-HD-1

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 7:47:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/4/2020 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

When you compare the Rnaught between the common flu and the CoronaVirus, everyone should be very concern and it necessitates immediate action to protect our kamaaina and malahini.

HB-139-HD-1

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 6:04:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/4/2020 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Honored Representatives serving on the Health Committee,

I proudly testify in support of House Bill 139 as a proposed Draft 2 adding scope to the bill for coronavirus detection.

Health screenings follow the maxim of early detection over waiting for symptoms to arise. In the case of the airborne Wuhan coronavirus and some other infectious diseases, symptoms may arrive far too late from a public health and disease control perspective. From here in East Honolulu (Mānoa and nearby Pāhala to Hawai'i Kai) to the North Shore, to Kaua'i and the other sister islands, it is evident that we have thousands of recent arrivals coming from areas affected by the Wuhan coronavirus. An outbreak could cripple our tourism and government sectors, as well as our small businesses.

This global assault on our sense of confidence and safety, caused by one emergent microorganism, can be managed. We can screen and detect, and prepare our responding agencies, not just Department of Health, and prepare to guide the short-term activities of our residents and visitors when infectious disease outbreaks occur.

In short, please pass HB139 with a HD2 scope for coronavirus detection.

Mahalo nui loa,
Dylan P. Armstrong
Individual Capacity