

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB75 HD1 PROPOSED  
RELATING TO HEALTH.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: May 11, 2020

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Pertaining to Bill Section 6, there is an appropriation of \$500,000 in  
2 federal funds. However, a minimum \$3,500,000 is required to meet immediate needs for  
disease

3 outbreak and control; \$2,500,000 is required to enhance contact tracing capacity in the near  
4 future; and \$25,000,000 is strongly recommended to upgrade scientific and clinical  
laboratory

5 infrastructure to address the COVID mutations and future pandemic threats.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) will require more than  
\$500,000 to

7 plan, operationalize, and sustain a pandemic unit that will provide guidance related to  
contact

8 tracing, screening, testing, and reopening protocols. The proposed amount will enable the  
hiring

9 of approximately three staff with modest operational funds.

10 DOH strongly encourages more funding in fiscal year 2021 – 2022 from general or  
federal funds

11 to immediately operationalize a pandemic unit in anticipation of a subsequent spike in  
12 coronavirus-19 (COVID) and other unforeseen disease outbreak threats.

13 A more comprehensive pandemic response program will cost approximately \$3,500,000:

14 • \$1,000,000 for supplemental clinical and epidemiological leadership positions

15 • \$500,000 for supplemental disease investigation and infection control staff

16 • \$750,000 for supplemental vaccination staff

17 • \$300,000 to establish a new data science branch

18 • \$200,000 to sustain and expand information technology systems

- 1 • \$500,000 for supplemental laboratory microbiology, chemistry, and informatics staff to
- 2 enhance genomic testing for identifying mutations and different strains
- 3 • \$250,000 for operational funds and supplies such as personal protective equipment

4 An additional \$25,000,000 is strongly recommended to overhaul and upgrade the infrastructure

5 of the State Laboratory Division's physical assets, ranging from basic ventilation hardware and

6 staff safety equipment to remodeling the building and upgrading systems to future-proof against

7 new pandemics and anticipated standards.

8 Lastly, there is a need to establish academic curricula and training for contact tracing, for

9 example in partnership with the University of Hawaii system to achieve state-wide reach, which

10 may cost approximately \$2,500,000.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.