



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1121 SD1
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 625 2019

Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined general fund request ranging from \$50,000 - \$100,000.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health endorse the concept of Health in All
3 Policies and welcomes additional resources to assure department assessment, regulatory, and
4 advocacy authorities are aligned. Support for additional funds, however, is contingent on
5 priorities of the Executive Budget Request not being supplanted or replaced.

6 Although DOH routinely updates statutes through the Governor's Administration Package,
7 among other means, there has not been a holistic look at the span of department code for at least
8 ten years. In 1989, the department published the State Functional Health Plan, and more recently
9 DOH has participated in state health assessment activities as well as health care transformation
10 planning, which update goals and objectives but not necessarily statute and rules.

11 Therefore, the opportunity for a comprehensive review and update is generally welcome. That
12 said, and while DOH has most influence over its own statute, there may be greater health policy
13 yield by engaging other agencies or chapters of Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 Education and engagement of other agencies is critical. Regulatory authority outside of DOH
15 statute such as professional licensing, procurement policy, and land use – to name a few – have
16 incredible influence over risk and protective factors. The Legislature may consider broader
17 participation with multiple agencies, or perhaps one fundamental issue that spans jurisdictions
18 such as transportation or agriculture policy. One promising practice associated with Health in

1 All Policies frameworks is the Health Impact Assessment (HIA), which is defined by the CDC as
2 “a process that helps evaluate the potential health effects of a plan, project, or policy before it is
3 built or implemented. HIA brings potential positive and negative public health impacts and
4 considerations to the decision-making process for plans, projects, and policies that fall outside
5 traditional public health arenas, such as transportation and land use. An HIA provides practical
6 recommendations to increase positive health effects and minimize negative health effects.”

7 Local advocacy entities have conducted HIAs in recent years funded by the Robert Wood
8 Johnson Foundation. It may be an equally potent opportunity to examine the value of HIA in
9 public works and public policy initiatives, compared to an internal Department of Health review
10 of powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities in the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

11 Both ideas have merit and would require funding.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB1121 SD1.

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

14

LATE

SB-1121-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 3:50:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments: