

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



BONNIE KAHAKUI
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
April 6, 2021, 9:30 p.m.

HB723, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB723, HD1, SD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports this bill and provides the following comments.

Since March 2020, the SPO has been on board to support the emergency needs for the State of Hawaii during the declared pandemic by purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) and industrial hygiene supplies that meet Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requirements.

To date, the SPO has provided procurement services for over \$50,000,000 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocation as part of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) logistics team by purchasing respirators, ventilators, cloth masks, goggles, face shields, gloves, gowns, booties, suits/coveralls, hand sanitizer, hand sanitizer stations, and disinfecting products. Close to 50% of all purchases were from local suppliers and manufacturers.

Thank you.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/06/2021

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0723, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes use of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund, from the amounts received by the State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, for the purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment and industrial hygiene products to state departments and attached agencies. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 0723, HD1, SD1.

The Department has relied heavily on obtaining sufficient supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and industrial hygiene items from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA). HI-EMA has played a vital and critical role in the purchasing and distribution of the Department's PPE needs.

The opening of schools for in-person learning while ensuring the safety and health of its employees and students would be virtually impossible without the procurement of adequate supplies of PPE and industrial hygiene supplies from HI-EMA. In 2020, the Department obtained over \$6 million of PPE and industrial hygiene supplies, the great majority of which were provided through HI-EMA at no cost to the Department. In addition, another \$4.8 million of PPE and industrial hygiene supplies were purchased directly by the schools using their local budgets.

The Department estimates the costs for PPE and industrial hygiene products at approximately \$1 million per month in order for schools to safely return to in-person

learning and achieving its academic mission.

As the pandemic continues, PPE and industrial hygiene supplies are needed to prevent outbreaks and keep students, teachers, and families safe. The Department will continue to promote healthy practices, such as wearing face masks, regularly washing hands, and maintaining social distance.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 0723, HD1, SD1, particularly the dedicated funding it would provide for PPE and industrial hygiene products for Hawaii's public schools.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, April 6, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0723, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0723, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would clarify that the \$61,000,000 appropriated out of the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 to purchase and distribute personal protection equipment to hospitals, childcare facilities, elderly care facilities, businesses, non-profits and schools may also be used for the purchase of industrial hygiene products and for all State departments and attached agencies.

The bill would also take effect upon its approval.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

When our citizens first became infected with COVID-19 in February 2020, Hawaii's social safety net was not prepared. Basic necessities such as surgical and N-95 masks, gowns, shields, and other personal protection equipment (PPD) quickly became scarce. For our 15 FQHCs, very limited resources became stretched to the breaking point forcing providers to limit the provision of health care services in some instances.

Testimony on House Bill No. 0723, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1
Tuesday, April 6, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
Page 2

I'm pleased to write that the system did not shut down because of the dedication and selfless actions of providers working with community leaders, legislators, the Governor and his Administration, and the Mayors and their Administrations to keep the safety net afloat.

It cannot be overstated that these actions saved countless lives in Hawaii.

While the supply of PPE has stabilized due in large part to the efforts of the Department of Defense and private partners, among others, there are additional types of PPEs that can be utilized as well as other workers who can make use of these important tools. Accordingly, this bill would provide the State with additional flexibility to utilize very limited funds previously appropriated for best use. Because of the, the HPCA wholeheartedly supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

JOVANIE DOMINGO DELA CRUZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685

March 30, 2021

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair,
and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing: Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211, via Videoconference

From: Jovanie Domingo Dela Cruz, Executive Director
Office of Community Services

Re: H.B. No. 723, HD 1, SD 1 - RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This measure seeks to authorize use of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund, from the amounts received by the State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, for the purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment and industrial hygiene products to state departments and attached agencies. SD 1 reinstates the original effective date set out in the bill: effective upon approval.

II. CURRENT LAW

Under current legislation, Act 9, SLH 2020, Section 30, the Legislature appropriated \$100 million of CARES Act funding out of the emergency and budget reserve fund established under HRS §328L-3, for the purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment to hospitals, childcare facilities, elderly care facilities, businesses, non-profits, and schools.

III. COMMENTS ON THE BILL

This bill would expand the current legislation to allow for the purchase of “industrial hygiene products” and would allow for purchases of all of these allowable products by “all state departments and attached agencies” in addition to the recipients already identified in current law. These expansions make the use of CARES Act funds more effective for the State. OCS supports the bill for this reason.