



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1018 HD1
RELATING TO EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: April 1, 2021

Room Number: N/A

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure in
2 recognition of the Legislature's interest in restructuring and cost-efficiency. Although federal
3 stimulus moneys (American Rescue Plan Act) have averted a larger fiscal crisis, those funds will
4 eventually diminish as costs for operations increase. Statutory authority to reorganize will
5 provide the flexibility to meet ongoing and emerging public health crises, as well as apply
6 pandemic lessons-learned to existing operations.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

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Hawai'i Psychological Association

For a Healthy Hawai'i

P.O. Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521-8995

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:30 P.M. - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Testimony in Support on SB1018 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports SB1018 SD2 HD1, which requires the Department of Health to establish a pilot project to reorganize various divisions within the Department of Health, including the Behavioral Health Services Administration.

The extent to which the pandemic has eroded the mental health and emotional well-being of our residents cannot be understated. These challenges further compound with each day we combat COVID-19.

According to the purpose section in this bill, the reorganization pilot project it proposes will allow the divisions addressed by this bill to meet the needs of the public in a more responsive, prompt, effective, and efficient way. HPA therefore fully supports the state's ability to meet these challenges in the most expeditious way possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important bill.

Sincerely,

Alex Lichton, Ph.D.
Chair, HPA Legislative Action Committee