



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1553  
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ASSURANCE SPECIAL FUND.**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 10, 2022

Room Number: Video Conf.

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The intent of this bill is to focus the budget approval through the more  
2 dynamic budget approval process rather than through a static statutory ceiling. The bill would  
3 also lessen reliance on general funds by shifting costs to special funds.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department is in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill to lessen  
5 reliance on general funds especially during this period of budget uncertainty resulting from the  
6 state's economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

7 This bill would remove the OHCA special fund spending ceiling from statute and  
8 establish the ceiling through the budget process which must be done anyway even with a  
9 spending ceiling in statute. This would allow the legislature to approve spending from year to  
10 year as needed to cover costs of contracted health care facility inspectors and investigations on  
11 unlicensed care facilities, fund contracts that modernize operations and modernize the license  
12 application and licensure survey activities, and to offset other general fund limitations, rather  
13 than burden OHCA with an artificial and unrealistic ceiling in statute.

1           In addition, through this bill the legislature would allow the Department to retain revenue  
2 in the special fund to further reduce reliance on general funds for operational support during and  
3 after the pandemic.

4           Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this measure.

5   **Offered Amendments:** None.