

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB727
RELATING TO HEALTH**

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

Hearing Date: February 4, 2021

Room Number: N/A

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure.

2 Section 1: Public Swimming Pools

3 The department SUPPORTS the intent to increase fees, but prefers that fee increases by
4 accomplished with amendments to existing HAR 11-10, Public Swimming pools to avoid any
5 conflicts with existing rules.

6 Section 2: Tattoo Shops

7 The department SUPPORTS the intent to increase fees, but prefers that fee increases by
8 accomplished with amendments to existing HAR 11-17, Tattoo Artists to avoid any conflicts
9 with existing rules and HRS 321 Section 371-383.

10 Section 3: Public Health Planning and Statistics

11 The department SUPPORTS this bill section. The purpose of these budget-neutral amendments
12 is to codify the responsibility for DOH to proactively coordinate and plan statewide healthcare
13 and public health resources to assure the long-term financial sustainability, accessibility, and
14 quality. This position reflects the growing understanding and acceptance of social determinants
15 of health as a driver of avoidable health care costs. Low cost but high yield public health
16 interventions must better coordinate and complement high cost and moderate/high yield medical
17 interventions, and the Department of Health wishes to begin better aligning stakeholders.

1 The department, in partnership with stakeholders, and over the course of several years, will build
2 on these initial amendments as the public policy discussion enlarges.

3 Section 4: Fees for Certified Copies

4 The department SUPPORTS this bill section, the purpose of which is to adjust the fee paid by
5 individuals or entities seeking certified copies of vital records. DOH respectfully recommends
6 an increase from \$10 to \$20 for the first certified copy, and an increase from \$4 to \$10 for each
7 certified copy thereafter.

8 The current fees are \$10 for the first copy and \$4 for each subsequent copy for records related to
9 births, deaths, and marriages. The amounts have not increased in at least twenty years and are in
10 the bottom quartile of fees compared nationally. For example, large states like Texas and
11 California charge about \$25 for a birth certificate; while smaller urbanized states/district like
12 Washington DC and Rhode Island charge from \$25-\$35.

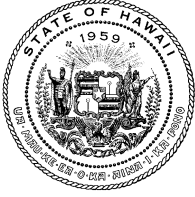
13 DOH has mission critical systems, including the core vital records database, that must be
14 upgraded to modern technology since it lacks redundancy. Fees collected pursuant to this
15 section are deposited in the vital statistics improvement special fund, which would partially
16 finance the upgrade and supports other day-to-day operational expenses; the general fund; and
17 three family abuse funds.

18 For this purpose, DOH recommends increasing from \$1 to \$3 the deposit into the Vital Statistics
19 Improvement Special Fund, with the balance of the new moneys to be deposited into the general
20 fund.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

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STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
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House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

HB 727, Relating to Health

Testimony of Serafin Colmenares, Jr. SHPDA Administrator

Thursday, February 4, 2021
9:00 a.m., Videoconference

1 **Agency's Position:** The State Health Planning and Development Agency is providing
2 comments to House Bill 727, particularly section 3 (4).

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** House Bill 727 amends, among others, HRS Section 338-2 by
5 requiring the Department of Health, through the establishment of a central bureau of public
6 health statistics, to "coordinate public health statistics, public health program data,
7 epidemiological data, and administrative data from providers of health insurance doing
8 business in the State to implement and update a statewide public health planning and public
9 health program development program."

10 It is to be noted that in 2016, the legislature passed Act 139 which amended HRS
11 Chapter 323D-18.5. The amendment required providers of health insurance doing business in
12 Hawaii to submit administrative data to the State Health Planning and Development Agency
13 (SHPDA) who, in turn, will submit it to the Social Science Research Institute, Pacific Health
14 Informatics and Data Center of the University of Hawaii for processing, assignment of
15 encrypted identifiers, and any other tasks deemed necessary by SHPDA. This came to be
16 known as Hawaii's All Payer Claims Database (APCD). The Act, among others, also required

1 SHPDA to develop and update an annual plan for the analysis, maintenance and publication of
2 the data collected, and to adopt rules for the schedule and frequency with which providers of
3 insurance shall provide administrative data to the state agency.

4 This bill is not clear as to the meaning of “coordinate” and what it entails, and how the
5 DOH central bureau of public health statistics will interface with SHPDA and the Hawaii APCD
6 regarding the collection and use of the administrative data from providers of insurance.

7 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:00 AM
Via Video Conference

House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

To: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **Comments on HB 727
Relating to Health**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write to provide **comments** on HB 727, specifically Section 3 which adds a new subsection to HRS 338-2 by expanding the Department of Health's (DOH) authority and duties by allowing DOH to coordinate public health statistics, public health program data, epidemiological data, and administrative data from providers of health insurance doing business in the State to implement and update a statewide public health planning and public health development program.

We appreciate the objective of implementing a statewide public health planning and public health development program. However, the definition of "public health planning" appears to endow the DOH with expanded authority to potentially regulate hospital services in a manner that is undefined under this measure.

The measure broadly defines "public health planning" to include public and *private health care services delivery resources* in the development of long-term strategic objectives and policies to improve the access, quality and sustainability of public health in the State.

HPH is concerned that the broad language provided in this definition provides DOH with undefined authority to establish policies that could potentially impact the manner in which healthcare is delivered to our patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

From: Colette Masunaga, Director, Government Relations & External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 4, 2021

Re: Comments Re: HB727 Relating to Health

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB727, Relating to Health. The bill would, among other things, require the Department of Health to coordinate public health statistics and other public health data to implement and update a statewide public health planning and public health program development program. While Queen's appreciates the intent to establish a statewide public health planning and development program, we would request further clarification on the definition of "public health planning".

The measure states that, "*public health planning*" shall include public and private health care services delivery resources in the development of long-term strategic objectives and policies to improve the access, quality, and sustainability of public health in the State." Based on this definition, we are concerned about the far-reaching implications this measure would have on private health care providers and our ability to effectively deliver care for our patients. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments.