

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2241**  
**(RELATING TO MEDICAL CARE FOR MINORS)**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 1/31/2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2241, which  
3 would permit minors, as currently defined in §577A-1, HRS, “from the age of fourteen to  
4 seventeen inclusive,” to consent to medical care related to the diagnosis or prevention of HIV.  
5 Parents or legal guardians would not be able to abrogate consent. The minor would not be liable  
6 for payment. This measure would also update archaic terminology in §577A, HRS, by replacing  
7 “venereal disease” with “sexually transmitted infection.”

8 The department supports the intent of this bill as it could help prevent HIV acquisition in  
9 minors and supports critical treatment of minors diagnosed with HIV. Safe, highly effective  
10 medications for the treatment and prevention of HIV need to be accessible for all individuals  
11 diagnosed with HIV or at high risk of acquiring HIV. Medications taken by an HIV-uninfected  
12 individual to prevent acquisition of HIV are highly effective and were approved for use in  
13 minors in 2018.

14 Current statutes do not appear to permit a minor to consent to medical care related to the  
15 prevention of HIV. This measure would resolve this critical gap. Permitting minors who cannot  
16 or will not seek the consent of their parents or guardians to consent to HIV medical care is  
17 essential to the health of the minor and a valuable step in ending the HIV epidemic in Hawaii.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

1 **Offered Amendments:** None

**To: Committee on Health**

**Hearing Date/Time: Monday, January 31, 2022 1:00 PM**

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2241**

**From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) strongly supports SB 2241 which would give minors consent to life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to medications like PrEP to prevent the infections.

HHHRC respectfully asks for one important issue to be added to the bill, in collaboration with the health plans to ensure that if a minor does access PrEP and it is covered by the minor's parents' health insurance, that the services not be disclosed to the parents. Research indicates that if young people have to disclose sexually-related issue to parents, they may decide to avoid the services altogether. We respectfully submit this language:

***Requiring a covered entity, upon notification that minor—initiated HIV prevention and/or PrEP services should not be disclosed, to maintain the confidentiality of minor—initiated HIV prevention and/or PrEP services.***

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHHRC is one of the largest PrEP medical providers in the state and has had to turn away 17 year olds and other minors who wanted to learn about these effective prevention strategies. During COVID, there were HIV outbreaks on the continent and passing HB 1675 is one step to ensuring that Hawaii doesn't have unnecessary HIV infections that could have been prevented.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

**STONEWALL  
CAUCUS**

FORMED IN 2001



THE FIRST CAUCUS OF THE  
**DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
OF HAWAII**

January 28, 2022

Senate's Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Monday, January 31, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2241**

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT to Senate Bill 2241 on behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii (formerly the LGBT Caucus). SB 2241 will permit minors to consent to medical care related to the diagnosis or treatment of HIV or the prevention of HIV. Provides that a minor, under certain circumstances, shall not be liable for payment for treatment or prevention of HIV. Authorizes physician assistants, in addition to physicians and advanced practice registered nurses, to render medical care and services to minors.

No minor should have to out themselves to access lifesaving medical care.

The Stonewall Caucus is glad to see that SB 2241 also includes coverage for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP prevents the spread of HIV especially if used in combination with condoms. New HIV cases are on the rise and we need to ensure that everyone that wants and needs it has access to PrEP. The upfront cost of PrEP is 1,000 times cheaper than treating HIV or AIDS.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair and SCC Representative  
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

# HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Get Ready Hawai'i

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG – Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

January 28, 2022

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Health

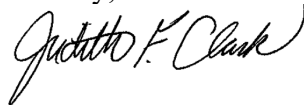
## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2241 RELATING TO MEDICAL CARE FOR MINORS

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, support SB 2241 Related to Medical Care for Minors

Currently minors may consent for a variety of services related to sexual health but are not allowed to access medications to prevent HIV. Minors who are at risk for HIV are often unwilling or unable to talk to their parents about their risk behaviors. This bill will enable minors to access potentially life-saving treatment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director

**SB-2241**

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 10:51:56 AM

Testimony for HTH on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the HTH Committee:

As a public health professional and concerned member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I strongly support SB2241 which would allow minors to consent to life saving HIV prevention medications. While 14-17 year olds in Hawaii can currently consent to most sexual health services, Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV is not currently covered. As such, this bill will save lives and prevent HIV among our local keiki.

According to the CDC, PrEP is the most effective HIV prevention intervention we have, and young people deserve access to this medication to prevent a life-lung infection with HIV.

Please also ensure that payment for PrEP is addressed so that minors do not have it listed on their parent's insurance which they may not want to be disclosed.

Thank you for investing in the health and safety of our young people!

With gratitude,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

**SB-2241**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:04:24 AM

Testimony for HTH on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kunane Dreier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in full support of this bill. Access to health care is so important for everyone, including minors. Allowing minors to advocate for themselves will empower them to seek life saving prevention care.

- PrEP is a safe, FDA-approved daily medication proven to prevent HIV and recommended as first line of HIV prevention by the CDC
- PrEP is not covered under the current minor consent statute that allows 14-17 year old to consent to most sexually-related medical care so this law is needed to allow access
- If a minor gets PrEP, it should not be indicated on parent's insurance unless the minor gives consent so payment issues need to be addressed
- PrEP is part of a comprehensive medical visit that includes screening for sexually transmitted infections and laboratory monitoring and is done by a licensed healthcare provider who adheres to evidence-based practices so this measure also will hopefully have more minors getting comprehensive sexual health services (according to Hawaii YRBS, Hawaii youth have one of the lowest condom usage in the US)

SB 2241 would allow minors 14-17 to consent on their own so they can get access to this important prevention strategy.

**SB-2241**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:41:19 AM

Testimony for HTH on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
nicole rhton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Baker and members of the committee

I strongly support SB 2241 which would allow minors to consent to life saving HIV prevention medications. While 14-17 year olds in Hawaii can currently consent to most sexual health services, PrEP is not currently covered and this bill will save lives.

According to the CDC, PrEP is the most effective HIV prevention intervention we have and young people deserve access to this medication to prevent a life-long infection with HIV.

Please also ensure that payment for PrEP is addressed so that minors do not have it listed on their parent's insurance which they may not want to be disclosed.

Thank you for investing in the health and safety of our young people!

Sincerely,

nicole



**SB-2241**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:24:32 AM

Testimony for HTH on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kristin Hennig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Baker and members of the committee I strongly support HB 2241 as a measure to prevent HIV infections by allowing minors access to HIV preventive drugs that could save their lives.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP) is medicine taken to prevent getting HIV. PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV when taken as prescribed. Research shows that there is no association between use of prophylactic treatment and increased risk-taking.

Hawai'i law already allows youth ages 14 to 17 years old and older to protect the health of their bodies by allowing access to most sexual health services. Empowering and supporting youth to prevent the spread of HIV is a logical extension of this existing protection. I believe that allowing youth to seek and obtain prophylactic (PrEP) and other treatments for sexually transmitted diseases is an important policy that will result in increased prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV for Hawai'i's youth.

Please also ensure that payment for PrEP is addressed so that minors do not have it listed on their parent's insurance which they may not want to be disclosed.

Aloha and mahalo for your time and investing in the health and safety of our youth.

Respectfully,

Kristin Hennig

**SB-2241**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 12:58:48 PM

Testimony for HTH on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ikaika Regidor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Baker and members of the committee

I strongly support SB 2241 which would allow minors to consent to life saving HIV prevention medications. While 14-17 year olds in Hawaii can currently consent to most sexual health services, PrEP is not currently covered and this bill will save lives.

According to the CDC, PrEP is the most effective HIV prevention intervention we have and young people deserve access to this medication to prevent a life-long infection with HIV.

Please also ensure that payment for PrEP is addressed so that minors do not have it listed on their parent's insurance which they may not want to be disclosed.

Thank you for investing in the health and safety of our young people!

Sincerely,

Ikaika Regidor



Testimony of  
Jonathan Ching  
Government Relations Director

Before:  
Senate Committee on Health  
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

January 31, 2022  
1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

**Re: SB 2441, Relating to the Medical Care for Minors**

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2441, which permits minors to consent to medical care related to the diagnosis or treatment of HIV or the prevention of HIV and authorizes physician assistants, in addition to physicians and advanced practice registered nurses, to render such treatment to minors.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i SUPPORTS SB 2441.**

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i is Hawai‘i’s largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for approximately 265,000 members. Each day, more than 4,400 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai‘i Permanente Medical Group physicians and providers come to work at Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i to care for our members at our 20 medical facilities, including Moanalua Medical Center, providing high-quality care for our members and delivering on our commitment to improve the health of the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

SB 2441 allows minors to consent to HIV treatment and prevention services and is a significant step in our statewide Hawai‘i 2 Zero (H20) cure initiative, which aims to reduce HIV/AIDS cases down to zero — zero new infections, zero new deaths and zero stigma caused by HIV. Adolescents and young adults (aged 13-29) accounted for 21% of new HIV diagnoses in 2019<sup>1</sup> and are the least likely of any age group to be in treatment or have a suppressed viral load. Addressing HIV infection and spread among adolescents and young adults requires that they have access medical care to get the information and tools they need to make healthy decisions, reduce their risk factors, and get treatment. However, it is well established that minors may avoid seeking care for sexually transmitted diseases if they must involve their parents or guardian.<sup>2</sup> We support SB 2441 because it allows minors age fourteen to seventeen to obtain such services without parent or guardian

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2018) ‘Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2019’.

<sup>2</sup> Guttmacher Institute (2000) ‘Minors and the Right to Consent to Health Care’.

involvement. SB 2441 also adds Physician Assistants to the healthcare providers who may treat minors, which further reduces barriers to timely, quality care for our state's youth.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

**SB-2241**

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 5:45:04 PM

Testimony for HTH on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nicole Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Baker and members of the committee

As a family nurse practitioner on the island of Oahu, I strongly support SB 2241 which would allow minors to consent to life saving HIV prevention medications. While 14-17 year olds in Hawaii can currently consent to most sexual health services, PrEP is not currently covered and this bill will save lives.

According to the CDC, PrEP is the most effective HIV prevention intervention we have and young people deserve access to this medication to prevent a life-long infection with HIV.

Please also ensure that payment for PrEP is addressed so that minors do not have it listed on their parent's insurance which they may not want to be disclosed.

Thank you for investing in the health and safety of our young people!

Sincerely,

Nicole Ryan, DNP, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC

**SB-2241**

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:46:59 AM

Testimony for HTH on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kavika Puahi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Baker and members of the committee,

I strongly support SB 2241 which would allow minors to consent to life saving HIV prevention medications. While 14-17 year olds in Hawaii can currently consent to most sexual health services, PrEP is not currently covered and this bill will save lives.

According to the CDC, PrEP is the most effective HIV prevention intervention we have and young people deserve access to this medication to prevent a life-long infection with HIV.

Please also ensure that payment for PrEP is addressed so that minors do not have it listed on their parent's insurance which they may not want to be disclosed.

Thank you for investing in the health and safety of our young people!

Sincerely,

Kavika Puahi