



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2624
RELATING TO HEALTH.**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 10, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified general fund appropriation.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health established the expansion of telehealth as a
3 community standard of care in 2015 in the department’s strategic plan. Telehealth adoption has
4 historically been very low; less than five percent of healthcare providers surveyed by the
5 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine reported a telehealth encounter. Since
6 2015, Hawaii has enacted very strong laws that reduce barriers to telehealth, and since then
7 survey, responses have increased to approximately 10%.

8 The COVID-19 pandemic, however, healthcare providers into what has been loosely called
9 “telehealth by desperation” in the health journals, with encounters soaring 750%. These are
10 gains that our community should be consolidating. In-person visits will always be necessary, but
11 the pandemic has demonstrated that high quality healthcare can still take place remotely.

12 What has not changed for the better are the broadband access and technology disparities, which
13 were in fact exacerbated and highlighted by the pandemic. The “canoe district” of Maui presents
14 an interest natural experiment and looks forward to ongoing discussion regarding the scope and
15 expected benefits of a pilot program.

16 **Offered Amendments:** The department recommends amendments for clarity and ensure that
17 public moneys are expended with accountability.

1 SECTION 3. (a) The department of health shall implement
2 and administer a rural healthcare pilot project.

3 (b) The rural healthcare pilot project shall:

4 (1) Assist residents in three distinct rural areas, one each on the islands of Maui,
5 Molokai, and Lanai; provided that the area selected on the island of Maui shall be in
6 the Hana district;

7 (2) Pay a \$250 availability fee to each contracted licensed physician or nurse
8 practitioner providing healthcare services in one or more of the areas selected
9 pursuant to subsection (1); provided that each physician or nurse practitioner shall
10 practice in a [~~medical~~] specialty that is difficult for rural residents to access, including
11 but not limited to cardiology, gastroenterology, endocrinology, dermatology, and
12 nephrology; provided further that the availability fee shall be separate from, and in
13 addition to, any charges billed by the physician or nurse practitioner; and

14 (3) Reimburse each [~~eligible~~] contracted physician or nurse practitioner for any
15 costs that the physician or nurse practitioner deems necessary to provide in-person
16 healthcare services to patients in the areas selected pursuant to subsection (1),
17 including airfare and lodging costs and a per diem.

18 (c) The department of health [~~may~~] shall contract
19 with eligible physicians and hospitals, including but not
20 limited to those within the Hawaii Pacific Health,
21 Queen's Health Systems, and Kaiser Permanente networks,
22 to carry out the rural healthcare pilot project.
23

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2624

February 10, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Room 229 and Videoconference

RELATING TO HEALTH

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2624.

S.B. No. 2624 requires the Department of Health (DOH) to implement a telehealth pilot project; requires DOH to publish an evaluation report on telehealth pilot project outcomes; exempts the telehealth pilot project from the Hawai'i Public Procurement Code for a period of 12 months; requires DOH to implement and administer a rural healthcare pilot project; and appropriates an unspecified amount in general funds in FY 23 to DOH for the telehealth and rural healthcare pilot projects.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

By
Jerris Hedges, MD
Professor & Dean and
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, FAAFP
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & DIO, UH JABSOM
John A. Burns School of Medicine
and
Michael Bruno, PhD, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2624 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chairs Keohokalole and Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2624 which requires the Department of Health (DOH) to implement a telehealth pilot project, exempts the pilot project from procurement, and requires the DOH to implement and administer a rural healthcare pilot project to provide physicians serving selected rural areas with an availability fee and reimbursement for certain expenses.

The proposed telehealth pilot is welcome and sorely needed in rural and remote communities, as well as communities with little access to medical, mental health, and oral health services. According to the 2016 Hawai'i Primary Care Needs Assessment Data Book, most rural communities in O'ahu, as well as on the neighbor islands have higher percentages of populations receiving public assistance (health care covered by Quest or Medicaid FFS) compared to the State average. Per capita household income is lower and may contribute to the numerous transportation barriers seen in rural communities. Rural communities and underserved communities throughout Hawai'i have higher rates of obesity, heavy drinking, diabetes, and blood pressure compared to more affluent or urban communities. Death from heart disease, cancer, and stroke also tend to be higher in all neighbor islands, as well as rural O'ahu communities. Hospital admissions for substance-related disorders and mood disorders are also higher than Honolulu-county or statewide rates. In September 2021, a special issue of the Hawai'i Journal of Health and Social Welfare included reports on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and social welfare of the people in Hawai'i. Many of the challenges noted across the state, as well as for Native Hawaiian, Filipino, and Pacific Islander populations, support the need for improved access, health, and digital literacy.¹

¹ Buenconsejo-Lum LE, Qureshi K, et al. (2021). A report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and social welfare in the state of Hawai'i. *Hawai'i J Health Soc Welf.* 2021; 80(9 suppl 1): 12-23. The entire issue,

Many of the highest-risk patients reside in Medically Underserved Areas (MUA), are part of Medically Underserved Populations (MUP), or reside in federally-designated health professional shortage areas. Telehealth would benefit many in these communities. Elderly, as well as medically- and socially-complex patients often face transportation barriers and difficulty navigating our collective system of health care. These determinants of health, as well as social or cultural isolation can often impede seeking care or follow-up after a doctor's appointment or hospitalization. Being able to provide telehealth services at community health centers or in the home has tremendous potential for improving the health of patients, their families, as well as providing cost-savings to the entire health system by avoiding emergency department or hospitalization costs.

Telehealth to rural areas has been demonstrated to reduce hospital bed-days and hospital admissions in the VA population (Slabodkin, 2016)². HI-EMA convened a working group, coordinated by the University of Hawai'i to conduct a statewide telemedicine needs assessment in May 2020³. Lessons from telehealth strategies implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic can help build better systems of care, including services that address many social determinants of health⁴. Additional successful telehealth pilots focusing on medically underserved areas with an FQHC or rural health clinic have the potential to improve patient follow-up post-hospitalization (and prevent additional emergency department or hospital visits), provide closer monitoring of patients who would most benefit from multi-disciplinary team-based care, especially if periodically coupled with home visits by trained nurses, community health workers, or physicians. Given the targeted rural areas proposed in SB 2624, partnering with the local health system(s) that have a network(s) of affiliated specialists and complex care management infrastructures will more rapidly provide care to the rural areas. This builds a coordinated telehealth provider network across the State.

Hawai'i's Medicaid and Quest plans pay for telehealth visits as a covered benefit under Act 226 (SLH, 2016) - including reimbursement for behavioral health, primary care, specialty care that is provided by physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, psychologists, mental health providers, dentists, and other oral health providers. In Hawai'i, telepsychiatry helps to address the mental health needs of children on most neighbor islands, as well as students in home- and school-based settings on the islands of Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i and O'ahu. Conditions treated in the schools,

including reports specific to each island and to NH, PI, Filipino groups can be downloaded at https://hawaiijournalhealth.org/past_issues/80.09.suppl1.htm/

² Slabodkin, G. (2016). VA expanding telehealth to meet growing needs of veterans. Health Data Management. Retrieved from <https://www.healthdatamanagement.com/news/va-expanding-telehealth-to-meet-growing-needs-of-veterans>.

³ Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency State Emergency Support Function #8. (2020) Statewide Telemedicine Needs Assessment. Retrieved from <https://uhealthy.hawaii.edu/telemedicine-needs-assessment/>

⁴ <https://health.hawaii.gov/news/newsroom/department-of-health-to-bring-health-digital-navigators-and-telehealth-support-services-to-underserved-communities/>

home, and in the Department of Health's mental health clinics include developmental disabilities and severe mental illness.

Several clinical departments at JABSOM provide telehealth services to remote areas of Hawai'i and the US Pacific. We continue to partner with the Hawai'i State Department of Health in the development of the Hawai'i State Telehealth Plan and participate in the Telehealth Hui (coordinated by the UH Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center) and the Broadband Hui.

JABSOM, as part of the fabric of Hawai'i, looks forward to working with many partners in support of *Maika'i Loa: Attain Lasting Optimal Health for All* (ALOHA).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 3:00 PM
Via Video Conference

Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

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

**Re: SB 2624 – Testimony In Support
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 am writing in SUPPORT of SB which requires the Department of Health (DOH) to implement a telehealth pilot project, exempts the pilot project from procurement, and requires the DOH to implement and administer a rural healthcare pilot project to provide physicians serving selected rural areas with an availability fee and reimbursement for certain expenses.

The proposed telehealth pilot is welcome and sorely needed in rural and remote communities, as well as communities with little access to medical, mental health, and oral health services. According to the 2016 Hawai'i Primary Care Needs Assessment Data Book, most rural communities on Oahu, as well as on the neighbor islands have higher percentages of populations receiving public assistance (health care covered by Quest or Medicaid FFS) compared to the State average. Per capita household income is lower and may contribute to the numerous transportation barriers seen in rural communities. Rural communities and underserved communities throughout Hawai'i have higher rates of obesity, heavy drinking, diabetes, and blood pressure compared to more affluent or urban communities. Death from heart disease, cancer, and stroke also tend to be higher

in all neighbor islands, as well as rural Oahu communities. Hospital admissions for substance-related disorders and mood disorders are also higher than Honolulu-county or statewide rates. In September 2021, a special issue of the Hawai'i Journal of Health and Social Welfare included reports on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and social welfare of the people in Hawai'i. Many of the challenges noted across the state, as well as for Native Hawaiian, Filipino, and Pacific Islander populations, support the need for improved access, health, and digital literacy.¹

At HPH's clinic on the island of Lana'i, telehealth is an option for patients who are unable to travel to another neighbor island for needed healthcare. Lana'i patients have about 60 telehealth visits per month with an HPH provider who is based on O'ahu. The visits are primarily done through video with specialties, including gastroenterology, virtual urgent care (i.e. doctors on call), oncology, orthopedics, rheumatology, and endocrinology. Additionally HPH provides telehealth consults to patients on Maui for oncology services from our O'ahu based provider networks.

Being able to provide telehealth services at community health centers or in the home has tremendous potential for improving the health of patients, their families, as well as providing cost-savings to the entire health system by avoiding emergency department or hospitalization costs. Many of the highest-risk patients reside in Medically Underserved Areas (MUA), are part of Medically Underserved Populations (MUP), or reside in federally-designated health professional shortage areas. Telehealth would benefit many in these communities. Elderly, as well as medically- and socially-complex patients often face transportation barriers and difficulty navigating our collective system of health care. These determinants of health, as well as social or cultural isolation can often impede seeking care or follow-up after a doctor's appointment or hospitalization.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Buenconsejo-Lum LE, Qureshi K, et al. (2021). A report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and social welfare in the state of Hawai'i. *Hawai'i J Health Soc Welf.* 2021; 80(9 suppl 1): 12-23. The entire issue, including reports specific to each island and to NH, PI, Filipino groups can be downloaded at https://hawaiijournalhealth.org/past_issues/80.09.suppl1.htm/



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Health and Commerce and Consumer
Protection
Thursday, February 10, 2022; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2624, RELATING TO HEALTH.

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Baker, 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 THE INTENT** of Senate Bill No. 2624, RELATING TO HEALTH., but bring to your attention our concerns.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would establish the Telehealth and Rural Healthcare Pilot Project (Project), and appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the Project. Specifically, this bill would allow the Department of Health (DOH) to contract without regard to Chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), with eligible physicians and hospitals, including but not limited to those within the Hawaii Pacific Health, Queen's Health Systems, and Kaiser Permanente networks to carry out the rural healthcare aspects of the Project.

At the outset, the HPCA has consistently supported any and all efforts to expand telehealth in the State. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how important this mode of communication has been to ensure that our citizens receive essential primary care services when the circumstances prevent or restrict access to face-to-face interaction with health care professionals. While the HPCA supports measures that would expand access to telehealth in rural communities, we have serious concerns about this bill as it is presently written.

FQHCs have long utilized telehealth for consultations with specialists located away from the FQHCs facilities. FQHC patients in need of specialty services such as cardiology, dermatology, and others are able to access these specialists via telehealth at the FQHC. These telehealth services are reimbursable under Medicaid, so these services are being funded by both the federal and State governments through the required match pursuant to the State Medicaid Plan.

Also, most primary care physicians are part of networks of health care providers and should be able to facilitate this kind of referrals to specialists and allow for diagnosis and examinations via telehealth whenever feasible. Also, under Hawaii's Telehealth Law, these services should be reimbursable.

As we see it, the largest barrier to telehealth expansion has been the lack of broadband service in rural and isolated communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of broadband coverage has forced many of our patients to have to rely on land-based telephone communication as their only link to primary care.

In light of the foregoing, the HPCA recommends that this measure be filed and that a Concurrent Resolution be introduced requesting the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) to:

- (1) Identify the number of practicing physicians who are not part of provider networks and whether this concept is feasible. That way DOH can fully analyze the macro- and micro-economic impacts of this idea;
- (2) Assess the costs the Project focused solely on this cohort and prepare an annual budget. That way the Legislature can assess how much more it will need to fund above and beyond what it already pays with the federal government for telehealth; and
- (3) Identify any and all barriers to better integration of telehealth throughout the State. That way the Legislature can determine whether a different approach is needed.

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 OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 10, 2022

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Thirty-First Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Keohokalole, Senator Baker, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2624 Relating to Health

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB2624**, which requires the Department of Health to implement a telehealth pilot project and publish an evaluation report on the telehealth pilot project outcomes. Exempts the telehealth pilot project from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code for a period of 12 months. Clarifies that the period of performance of all procurements made during this temporary exemption shall not exceed the term of the telehealth pilot project. Requires the Department of Health to implement and administer a rural healthcare pilot project to provide physicians serving selected rural areas with an availability fee and reimbursements for certain expenses.

COVID has shown that our intellectual and or developmental disability (I/DD) community members must turn more and more to telehealth and Zoom-based services. COVID proved that many individuals within our I/DD community are part of a high-risk group that needed to rely on staying at home and using telehealth services more so than the average citizen. Many of our I/DD community members live in rural areas of our state and struggle to find doctors willing to take them on as patients due to the high demand for doctors and low accessibility of these rural areas. Many of our individuals cannot travel out of their rural areas easily and rely heavily on telehealth services for all of their health needs. The Council supports this measure for the pilot project that seeks to incentivize doctors to serve our state's rural areas and underserved populations via telehealth.

SB2624 Relating to Health
February 10, 2022
Page 2 of 2

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB2624.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

SB-2624

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:20:56 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gene Ross K. Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support bill 2624, I appreciate your support.

Mahalo

SB-2624

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:56:05 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judith Mikami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am supporting the passage of SB 2624 that requires the Department of Health to implement a telehealth pilot project and publish an evaluation report on the telehealth pilot project outcomes; exempts the telehealth pilot project from the Hawaii Public Procurement Code for a period of 12 months; clarifies that the period of performance of all procurements made during this temporary exemption shall not exceed the term of the telehealth pilot project; and requires the Department of Health to implement and administer a rural healthcare pilot project to provide physicians serving selected rural areas with an availability fee and reimbursements for certain expenses. These are several components in this important bill; however, I would like to focus on the rural challenges that face our rural areas, consumers as well as providers. It has been found that the legislature finds that many Hawaii residents are unable to obtain timely and appropriate healthcare and behavioral healthcare due to shortages of primary, specialty, and behavioral care providers. Vulnerable residents, including the elderly, and other residents residing in rural and remote areas, experience even greater barriers to provider access. These barriers include issues relating to fixed or limited financial resources, lack of physical mobility or other disabilities, cognitive impairment, transportation, and a lack of readily accessible physicians and other healthcare providers. Having the accessibility and availability of telehealth to these areas will greatly improve medical services, albeit virtually, as well as have the reimbursement to these providers at an equitable rate for an availability fee and reimbursements for certain expenses. I strongly support the passage of SB2624. Thank you for the opportunity. Judith Mikami, Molokai resident

SB-2624

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:31:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Sasada	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

I support this bill because it will be of great help to our students and our community!

Mahalo!

SB-2624

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:58:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle Naeole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD

**Testimony Presented Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, CHAIR

February 10, 2022

I am writing in strong support of SB 2624.

Our rural areas continue to be the most underserved populations in Hawaii. Both Maui and Hawaii Counties are experiencing physician shortages of 40%. One of the easiest ways to provide healthcare to residents of rural areas, who can't drive to healthcare, is through telehealth.

Sixty-three percent of the physicians in Hawaii report providing telehealth to patients, therefore if we incentivize the activity for populations in need, we should be able to expand access to necessary care, decrease rural patient need to travel off island and improve health of rural communities significantly.

I believe this bill will demonstrate how we can make lasting change to the health of our rural populations. Thank you for being forward thinking, innovative, and caring about the rural areas of our state!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2624

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:52:04 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lorna Dudoit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We support this bill

SB-2624

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:58:17 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas H Joslyn	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I wish to sent testimony to the Senate on this bill. I am infavor of this bill, however this bill should include Nurse Practioners (NP) in this pilot project for telehealth. NP are a vital part of the health care of our Hawaii Patients. Please add language including them. Thank you.

Thomas H Joslyn APRN CRNA MS

SB-2624

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:18:04 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Allen Diorec	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2624.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129

LATE

February 10, 2022

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senate Bill 2624 – Relating to Health

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2624 Relating to Health. The bill would require the Department of Health to implement a telehealth pilot project and publish an evaluation report on the telehealth pilot project outcomes.

Telehealth is a valuable option for people with disabilities. Telehealth appointments assist patients with mobility disabilities who may have transportation difficulties to attend in-person. Patients with disabilities who have certain underlying conditions may be at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and will have an option to schedule telehealth appointments.

Please consider in the pilot project to track the number of requests for auxiliary aids/services and if the delivery of healthcare utilizing such services via telehealth was satisfactory.

The DCAB supports the rural health care pilot project to assist Maui – Hana district, Molokai and Lanai residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Pagano

for KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



HIPHI Board

Kilikina Mahi, MBA
Chair
KM Consulting LLC

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
Secretary
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine
Treasurer

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW
Molokai Community Health Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

May Okihiro, MD, MS
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Michael Robinson, MBA, MA
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai

Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Food Security Coalition

Date: February 9, 2022

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection

Re: Support for SB 2624, Relating to Health

Hrg: February 10, 2022 at 9:00 AM via videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ is in **support of SB 2624**, which requires Department of Health to create a telehealth pilot project.

HIPHI supports increased access to healthcare services through telehealth services. Telehealth is especially beneficial for neighbor islands and rural areas, where access may be more limited. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need and use of telehealth services. The pilot project created pursuant to SB 2624 provides an opportunity to gather useful data to pave the way for telehealth throughout Hawai'i, which will increase access to care beyond the pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

Amanda Fernandes, JD
Policy and Advocacy Director

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute is a hub for building healthy communities, providing issue-based advocacy, education, and technical assistance through partnerships with government, academia, foundations, business, and community-based organizations.



To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 10, 2022

Re: Support for SB 2624 – 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 support the intent of SB 2624, which requires the Department of Health to implement and report upon a telehealth pilot project and requires the Department of Health to implement and administer a rural healthcare pilot project to provide physicians serving selected rural areas with an availability fee and reimbursements for certain expenses. We appreciate and support the intent of this measure to examine the effectiveness of telemedicine for delivering needed medical services to Hawai'i's rural and neighbor island communities.

Queen's provides a number of telemedicine specialties in areas such as, but not limited to, stroke and neurology, psychiatry, wound care, and critical care. Telehealth programs assist with connecting our four hospitals across the state and allow our health care professionals to provide care to patients in their local communities. Since the start of the COVID19 pandemic, Queen's has made substantial investments in shifting to telehealth as a modality for providing quality care for patients – including those requiring behavioral health services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2624.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

SB-2624

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:05:05 AM
Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB2624

Mahalo