

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

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2914
RELATING TO HEALTH**

JARRET KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Hearing Date: 2/10/2022

Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The staff and programs of the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health are
2 funded solely through federal project grants and the Department of Health does not have the
3 resources to implement the requests as outlined in this measure. The Department requests that
4 passage of any appropriations in this measure does not replace or adversely impact priorities
5 indicated in our Executive Budget.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully offers comments on S.B. 2914, which
7 establishes the one shared health vision plan with a pilot program in Hawai'i County. This
8 measure may not be needed since it duplicates efforts that are already underway. The
9 Department of Health, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH) is engaged with
10 community-based organizations on Hawai'i Island, including the Hawai'i Physician Shortage
11 Taskforce and Community First, to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment for Hawai'i
12 County. Efforts to date have resulted in over two thousand survey responses and eleven focus
13 groups with providers, community members, and social service organizations. Currently the
14 results of these interactions are being analyzed and a report is in development. Additionally,
15 there are plans to expand this work to other rural areas throughout the state as a part of a broader
16 effort to address disparities in health equity.

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



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Government Operations and Health
Thursday, February 10, 2022; 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2914, RELATING TO HEALTH.

Chair Moriwaki, Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the 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** Senate Bill No. 2914, 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 160,000 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 direct the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (Office) within the Department of Health to initiate a 2030 "One Shared Health Vision" plan for the County of Hawaii. This bill would also require the Office to facilitate discussions with key community health and social service organizations within Hawaii County to address the health and wellness needs of the most vulnerable populations.

The HPCA and its member FQHCs stand committed to participating and assisting in this endeavor. We note that three of our members serve the people of the County of Hawaii -- Bay Clinic; Hamakua-Kohala Health; and West Hawaii Community Health Center. All provide high-quality primary care to Hawaii County's Medicaid population.

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.

SB-2914

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:02:27 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
C. Kimo Alameda, PhD	Testifying for Bay Clinic, CEO	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Bay Clinic in **SUPPORT of SB #2914**, which establishes the “one shared health vision” plan for Hawai’i County, which requires the Office of Primary Care and Rural health to facilitate discussions with key community health and social service organizations to address the health and wellness needs of the most vulnerable.

I personally approached Senator Dru Kanuha’s Office to propose this first step in aligning the health priorities for our most vulnerable citizens on Hawaii Island. I believe this will help decrease competing funding requests that much of our islands Health entities are seeking from the legislature. The goal is for everybody to support each other’s mission and to pause when we are crossing each other’s lanes. The intent is collaboration not competition or duplication of services.

On the island of Hawaii, there’s a nonprofit agency called Community First. They are funded through the county to provide an island-wide community needs assessment and they have already assembled partnerships to fulfill the intent of this legislation. Although much of the work can be done by Community First, this legislation will ensure that a 2030 plan will developed. Questions like do we need more health centers? Do we need another hospital? How can we increase more specialists on island? Do we need more urgent cares? Should health centers consolidate their services and what are the pros and cons of consolidation? Is competition in healthcare good for the island? It is here that HPCA and the Rural Health Association can serve more of a liaison overseeing the process.

Sincerely

Established in 1998, the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association (HSRHA) is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization dedicated to addressing rural health needs across our island state.

~ Working Together To Promote Healthy Rural Communities ~

Executive Board:

Lisa Rantz, Hawai'i
Judy Mikami, Moloka'i
Valerie Janikowski, Lana'i
Cristin Gallagher, Hawai'i

Board At Large:

Kimberly Kobayashi, Hawai'i
Jessie Marques, Ka'u
Kanani Kaye, Kaua'i
Bridget Collins, Kaua'i
Ray Ho, Kaua'i
Laura Reichhardt, O'ahu
Puanani Hee, Kaua'i
Gregg Kishaba, O'ahu
Kelley Withy, O'ahu

Priorities:

Rural Provider Shortages
Workforce Development
Opioid and Substance Abuse
Primary Prevention
Health Equity

Hawaii State Rural Health Association

140 Rainbow Drive
Hilo, HI 96720

hsrhacoordinator@gmail.com
hawaiiistateruralhealth.org

Facebook @hawaiiiruralhealth
Instagram @hawaiiiruralhealth
Twitter @HawaiiRural
Twitter @Hawaii_ECHO



**HAWAI'I STATE
RURAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION**

February 10, 2022, 3:00 P.M.

Via Video Conference

Senate Committees on Government Operations and Health

To: Senators Moriwaki and Keohokalole, Chairs
Senators Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs

From: Lisa Rantz
President, Hawaii State Rural Health Association

Re: **Comments on S.B. 2914
Relating to Health**

The Hawaii State Rural Health Association (HSRHA) respectfully submits comments on S.B. 2914, Relating to Health.

As a non-profit rural health association, our mission is to advocate for rural health issues and promote communication, education and research of issues related to rural health. Our vision is that we are the collaborative health leader for rural communities in Hawai'i.

Though Hawaii State Rural Health Association thanks the Legislature for attention to these needs, we also wish to inform you of our progress on this matter.

Recognizing the great importance to understand our state's rural communities' health and wellness needs, the Hawaii State Rural Health Association launched a health needs assessments initiative for the neighbor island counties. This project started with Hawaii County, with Community First as the lead and Hawaii State Rural Health Association as the secondary organization supporting the undertaking. These efforts include community and provider surveys of needs and stakeholder focus groups including business chambers, providers, hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and others. In total, we have completed 11 focus groups and received over 2,000 survey responses from Hawaii Island. Approximately 10% of responses were from providers; the rest represent community members.

Initial findings from Hawaii Island are currently in draft.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and for your support and recognition of the unique needs of the rural geographies of our state.



LATE

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

Titiimaeta 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 Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Government Operations

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

Re: Support for SB 2914, Relating to Health

Hrg: February 10, 2022 at 3:00 PM via videoconference

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ is in **support of SB 2914**, which establishes the one shared health vision plan with a pilot program in Hawai'i County.

Addressing the health needs of vulnerable communities requires an unpacking of the underlying social determinants of health, and HIPHI strives to eliminate racism, disparities and injustices to improve the health and wellness of all people. For us, this translates to moving beyond advocating for equity, but rather amplifying our work *against* inequity. Doing so means looking beyond the immediate physical manifestations of social and environmental factors and addressing the root causes of negative health outcomes that disproportionately burden rural communities, low-income communities, communities of color, and sexual and gender minorities. Pursuant to SB 2914, the Office of Primary Care and Rural health will facilitate collaboration between key community stakeholders in Hawai'i County to gain a holistic view of these root causes and map out a plan to improve the health of Hawai'i County residents.

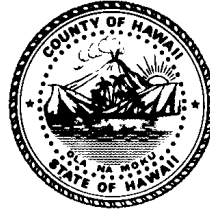
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

Amanda Fernandes, JD
Policy and Advocacy Director

ⁱ 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.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy. Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 9, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON SB 2914, RELATING TO HEALTH
Committee on Health
Committee on Government Operations
Thursday, February 10, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Keohokaloha, Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2914, a measure relating to health. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

The purpose of this measure establishes the one shared health vision plan with a pilot program to be in Hawaii county. There are so many incredible organizations working to help keep our community safe and healthy. This program would help give us a more accurate assessment of the programs available and give us a better understanding of what issues still need to be addressed. This would also help our organizations know what other options are available so they might be able to refer their patient to another social service, or possibly collaborate on programs to maximize their funding opportunities.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Health and the Committee on Governmental to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council