



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 310
RELATING TO STATE-LICENSED CARE FACILITIES.

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 Room Number:

1 **Fiscal Implications:** If the 2021 Legislature leaves the Department of Health, Office of Health
2 Care Assurance (OHCA) special fund intact with its current fund balance, there are no fiscal
3 implications for general funds under this bill. However, if the Legislature sweeps funds from the
4 OHCA special fund, general funds of approximately \$250,000 will be required to implement this
5 measure.

6 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to provide Comments on this bill.

7 The Department agrees with the intent of this bill and on the information to make public
8 on state-licensed health care facilities. The Department is currently working on this.

9 The Department's Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA) has been working on a
10 multi-phase management information system information technology (MIS IT) project to
11 upgrade and improve OHCA's operations. This includes creating a uniform and consistent data
12 base on licensed health care facilities, which was implemented in late 2018, from a hodgepodge
13 of data bases that couldn't interconnect or easily share. This provided OHCA the ability to begin

1 collecting state licensing fees on health care facilities in early 2019. Licensing fees are vital to
2 provide funds for subsequent phases of the MIS IT project as well as for other necessary
3 expenses not covered by general funds. The MIS IT project will include the use of technologies
4 to better track facility relicensing dates, complete survey inspections and post inspection reports,
5 and many other operating activities.

6 The Department intends to establish a more sophisticated search function similar to
7 search functions on the websites of other executive branch departments such as the Department
8 of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) or the Medicare website used to search for
9 Medicare certified health care facilities.

10 The challenge often comes down to money to do these upgrades and OHCA's MIS IT
11 project has the same challenge.

12 As a result, the Department respectfully requests the Legislature to leave the OHCA
13 special fund untouched to enable the Department to continue its MIS IT project and be able to
14 fulfill the intent of this bill without this bill.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure and ask for this bill to be
16 deferred.

17 **Offered Amendments:** None.

SB-310

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:12:28 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jim Shon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support. Would also suggest this same link be posted on multiple web sites, including but not limited to SHPDA, EOA, the UH's COA, and County web sites. It is often difficult for seniors and their families in crisis to navigate and sometimes "guess" where to find information.

Simply saying the DOH is problematic. It is the DOH that has resisted common sense compliance with the law, in terms of timely inspections, posting deficiencies, and not redacting useful information. DOH still resists all change with the mantra: We need more \$\$, yet they spend time and resources over-redacting reports.

In this information age where the issue is often too much information, or too many sources, we need to ensure that wherever citizens look they can easily find crucial information. A family in search of useful information on where to place a loved one should not need to rely on a generic requirement for the DOH which often resists transparency.