



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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0352 SD1
RELATING TO LEAD-BASED PAINT**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: 1/27/2022

Room Number: Via Teleconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** This measure seeks to prohibit the use of lead-based paint on outdoor
3 structures, whether applied to new outdoor structures or already existing outdoor structures after
4 December 31, 2021.

5 The Department of Health shares your concern about lead exposure in Hawaii, particularly
6 childhood lead poisoning, and supports the proposed prohibition on the use of lead-based paint
7 on outdoor structures. This prohibition removes future sources of lead from the environment and
8 will have a similar public health impact as the ban on leaded gasoline implemented in 1985,
9 which resulted in steady population-wide decreases in blood lead levels. In addition, there are a
10 number of cases of the historical use of lead-based paint negatively impacting the people of
11 Hawaii, such as contamination from lead-based paint on old railway bridges resulting in the
12 temporary closure of two popular parks on the Hamakua Coast of Hawaii Island. The enactment
13 of this bill would prevent future problems like this and continue to minimize the amount of lead
14 contamination in the environment, thereby enhancing the public health of the people of Hawaii.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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



Hawai'i
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawai'i's children

To: Senator Rhoads, Chair
Senator Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: **SB 352 SD1, Relating to lead-based paint**
9:30 AM, January 27, 2022

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in strong support of Senate Bill 352, relating to lead-based paint.**

The effects of lead last a lifetime. Lead is linked to developmental delays, difficulty with muscle coordination, memory issues and trouble learning, as well as continuous headaches and depression. There are also immediate issues, like headaches and seizures, that lead can cause. While Hawai'i has restrictions on lead-based paint for residential structures, we must also restrict the use of lead-based paint for outdoor structures.

Soil contamination of lead is a major concern for young children. Young children playing outside can ingest chipped or deteriorated paint. Because lead does not break down, it remains in the soil until it is properly abated.¹ Hawai'i also lacks a robust lead screening process for children. Before the pandemic, only a little more than a quarter of children between ages 1 and 2 were tested for lead.² Restricting lead-based paint for outdoor structures will provide some protections for children against lead.

For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

¹ Hawai'i Children's Action Network, *Hawai'i childhood lead poisoning prevention: Community recommendations for improvements in childhood lead poisoning prevention efforts for Hawai'i, 2020*, https://www.hawaii-can.org/childhood_lead_poisoning_prevention

² Ibid.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 1/21/2022 6:30:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/27/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill to protect us and our environment.

SB-352-SD-1

Submitted on: 1/25/2022 3:34:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/27/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stand in strong support.