



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 28, 2024

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

House Bill 1941 HD1 – Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Health to Implement Quality Improvement Recommendations for the Hawaii State Hospital

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1941 HD11 – Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Health to Implement Quality Improvement Recommendations for the Hawaii State Hospital. It is vital that the State provide funds to ensure the health and safety of the employees, patients, and visitors at the Hawaii State Hospital.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirby L. Shaw".

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'ŌIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1941 H.D. 1  
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO IMPLEMENT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Room 308/Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (Department) requests this emergency  
2 appropriation to be considered as a vehicle to enhance safety and security at the Hawaii State  
3 Hospital (HSH). A concurrent Governor's Message provides a more comprehensive needs  
4 request.

5 **Department Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports H.B. 1941, making an  
6 emergency appropriation to the Department to implement quality improvement  
7 recommendations for the HSH.

8 **Department Testimony:** The Adult Mental Health Division provides the following testimony on  
9 behalf of the Department.

10 The Department supports an emergency appropriation to address immediate safety and  
11 quality concerns at the HSH. This measure aimed to provide preliminary funding for crucial  
12 improvements while a more comprehensive funding request was prepared.

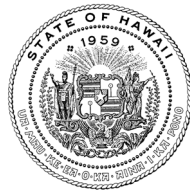
13 The urgency of this request stems from the potential risks to safety and security at HSH,  
14 which could adversely affect both patients and staff if not promptly addressed. The proposed

1 funds would be utilized to secure positions, contract services, repair and purchase safety  
2 related equipment and relocate/reconstruct the guard shack to enhance safety measures and  
3 maintain a secure environment on the hospital campus.

4 This Emergency Appropriation reflects the preliminary safety and security review which  
5 was later refined. The refined request is reflected in a Governor's Message. Either vehicle is  
6 acceptable, however, the complete needs are included in the GM.

7 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully requests that the funds be allocated to the  
8 fiscal year 2024-2025 and be appropriated out of the General Funds, which would align with the  
9 Governor's Message.

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



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
*Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā*  
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1941, H.D. 1

**February 28, 2024**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO IMPLEMENT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HAWAII  
STATE HOSPITAL

The Department of Budget and Finance offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1941, H.D. 1, makes an emergency appropriation from the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Special Fund for the Department of Health to implement improvement recommendations for the Hawai'i State Hospital.

It is noted that the Governor must designate this bill for immediate passage to enable passage prior to the FY 25 Executive Supplemental Budget bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**HB-1941-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:40:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support whatever funding is needed for the Hawaii State Hospital.

## Helping Hawai'i Live Well

**Testimony to the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00am  
HB1941 HD1 Relating to Emergency Appropriation to DOH**

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Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is in strong support of HB1941 HD1 which would create an emergency appropriation to the Department of Health to implement quality improvement recommendations for the Hawaii State Hospital.

**PRO BONO LEGAL COUNSEL**

Paul Alston

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Mental Health America of Hawai'i (MHAH), an affiliate of the renowned national organization, is a highly regarded 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the State of Hawai'i. For nearly 80 years, MHAH has been fulfilling its mission "to promote mental health & wellness through education, advocacy, service, and access to care" through its vision of 'mental wellness for all.' We endeavor to reduce the shame and stigma of mental illness and improve the overall care, treatment, and empowerment of those with or at risk for mental health challenges across all stages of life in Hawai'i.

It is well known that the understaffed State Hospital has significant opportunity for life saving improvements across the board. If funded, quality improvement projects can improve employee and patient safety, wellbeing, and satisfaction, ultimately resulting in higher clinical outcomes.

We strongly urge you to pass this legislation, and we are grateful for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Respectfully,



Bryan L. Talisayan  
Executive Director