



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'ŌIHANA OLAKINO  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1941 HD1  
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO IMPLEMENT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL**

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

Friday, March 15, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Room 225/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). Governor's Message 5 included these to be expended out of General Funds.

4 **Department Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports H.B. 1941 HD1, making an  
5 emergency appropriation to the Department to implement quality improvement  
6 recommendations for the HSH.

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

9 The Department supports an emergency appropriation in the amount of \$3,268,165 to  
10 address immediate safety and quality concerns at the HSH. This measure aimed to provide  
11 preliminary funding for crucial improvements while a more comprehensive funding request was  
12 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.

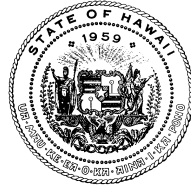
4 This Emergency Appropriation reflects the safety and security review, which is reflected  
5 in Governor's Message 5. The Department prefers the funding be included in the Supplemental  
6 Budget bill as reflected in Governor's Message 5.

7 **Offered Amendments:** If the Legislature determines that these costs should be paid out of the  
8 mental health and substance abuse special fund, we respectfully request amending Section 3 of  
9 the bill to read as follows:

10 "Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, there is appropriated out of the mental  
11 health and substance abuse special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be  
12 necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the department of health to implement quality  
13 improvement recommendations for the Hawaii state hospital."

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

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA  
MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I



KATHERINE AUMER, PhD  
COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON  
LUNA HO'OMALU O KA PAPA

STATE OF HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378, Room 256  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

**WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY  
ONLY**

**STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH  
Testimony to the Senate Committee on  
on Health and Human Services  
SUPPORTING HB 1941 HD1  
EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR  
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL**

**March 15, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Room 225/Video**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii law, HRS §334-10, established the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) as a 21-member body to advise on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting more than one county as well as to advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, individuals with mental illness or emotional problems, including those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Members are residents from diverse backgrounds representing mental health service providers and recipients, students and youth, parents, and family members. Members include representatives of state agencies on mental health, criminal justice, housing, Medicaid, social services, vocational rehabilitation, and education. Members include representatives from the Hawaii advisory commission on drug abuse and controlled substances and county service area boards on mental health and substance abuse.

The State Council on Mental Health supports H.B. 1941 HD1. The measure refers to an appropriation that is relevant to the Council's core mandate above. It provides emergency funding to the Hawaii State Hospital based on a quality improvement study. This measure is sought after the death of a mental health care employee at the Hawaii State Hospital campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please contact us at [DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:DOH.SCMHChairperson@doh.hawaii.gov).

**CHAIRPERSON**

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**IMMEDIATE PAST**

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## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 15, 2024

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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 HD1 – 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,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director

**HB-1941-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:35:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support.