

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

LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2538
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.**

SEN. JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: January 29, 2024

Room Number: 225

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2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of this measure
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Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

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Tasha Kama

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Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

January 28, 2024

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 29, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2538, RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. This measure requires the Department of Health to prioritize funding for programs and services under its jurisdiction and fill vacant positions on the island of Molokai, and provide a report to the legislature on these efforts.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Molokai's remoteness and lack of efficient and affordable transportation make it difficult for residents to access adequate health services.
2. Lack of access to adequate health services adds stress to individuals which may increase negative outcomes related to their preexisting health condition.
3. Mental health care services have been identified as Molokai's most pressing health care need. According to the Department of Health, approximately 11,000 youth in the State had a major depressive episode in 2019, yet only half received mental health services. Because Molokai has a lack of staff on-island and often inaccessible transportation to neighbor islands for care, they are at a disproportionate risk for having their mental health conditions worsen.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

LATE

SB-2538

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:14:20 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Much needed support for our health care on Molokai, shortage of health care professionals is a real dilemma.

LATE

SB-2538

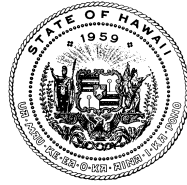
Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:22:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 1/29/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our Molokai residents struggle daily with adequate health care professionals being available. Flying to Oahu & Maui is costly and at times not reimbursable by insurance.



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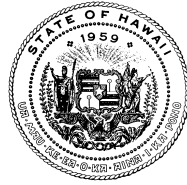
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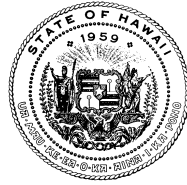
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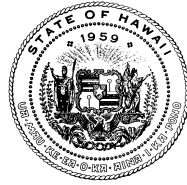
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