



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

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

KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3122 SD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH STANDING ORDERS.**

SEN. JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SEN. KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: February 23, 2024

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports SB3122, which is
3 part of the Governor's Administrative Package.

4 DOH's goal is to encourage Hawaii's healthcare system to prioritize prevention by making
5 routine health screenings easier to access. Currently, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
6 [recommends many secondary prevention interventions](#), i.e. tests that are routinely recommended
7 to screen for certain conditions in asymptomatic populations, and for which the Affordable Care
8 Act (P.L. 111-148) requires no patient copay or cost-share for most insurance coverage.

9 Examples include screenings for:

- 10 • Breast cancer for women aged 50 – 75 years;
- 11 • Lung cancer for adults 50 – 80 years with a history of smoking;
- 12 • Aortic aneurysm in men aged 65 – 75 years who have ever smoked; and
- 13 • Hepatitis C and HIV for most adults.

14 To access these screenings today, a patient must schedule an office visit with their provider to
15 receive an order, then schedule another appointment for the actual screening. SB3122 removes
16 the need for the first doctor visit and allows the patient to self-refer for the screening test, saving

1 time and money. Individuals with symptoms or diagnosed disease should receive care directly
2 from their provider. For example, this measure seeks to allow a woman who may have a full
3 time job, child care responsibilities, and perhaps transportation challenges to directly schedule
4 her screening mammogram. But a women who detected a lump would need to see her provider to
5 determine the appropriate diagnostic test.

6 This proposal requires good faith attempts to share results with the patient's provider, as well as
7 to the patient at an appropriate literacy level, similar to clinic visit summaries that have become
8 more prevalent.

9 The intent is to increase receipt of preventive care, advance population health, move routine care
10 that can be moved out of the exam room, and create more time for providers to address
11 individualized patient care.

12 DOH recognizes the need to engage further with healthcare community stakeholders prior to
13 beginning with the first and a single standing order, and that more discussions with stakeholders
14 are necessary. However, the downstream benefits of easier access to healthcare, the greatly
15 increased potential for catching illness such as cancer, an aneurysm, and various infections
16 sooner, and increasing patient activation and interest in their own health return significant value
17 in time, money, and avoidance of suffering.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Friday, February 23, 2024, 10:15 AM, Conference Room 229

RE: **SB3122 SD1 Relating to Public Health Standing Orders**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support with comments** on **SB3122 SD1**. This measure authorizes the Director of the Department of Health to issue public health standing orders for patients who are 18 years or older to self-refer to evidence-based preventive health care screening services.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 84,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 40 percent of our members are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare is committed to improving access to care and strengthening the Medicaid program. As you may know, Medicaid enrollment in our State has grown by over 46% from 327,000 enrollees in March 2020 to 476,000 in January 2024. This tremendous growth has put a further strain on our State's already challenged provider capacity. We support this measure as one way to increase timely access to evidence-based clinical preventive care and screenings, while also relieving some of the burden faced by our existing provider workforce.

In addition to the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommendations, there are also other national organizations that issue evidence-based guidelines. However, the guidelines may vary slightly. For example, age ranges for testing or clinical parameters may differ, but the goal is the same evidence-based preventive services. *We ask that you consider broadening the organizations from which the DOH Director may issue evidence-based preventive services beyond USPSTF and include "other nationally recognized professional academies and specialty organizations," such as the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American College of Preventive Medicine.*

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support with comments** on **SB3122 SD1**.

Friday, February 23, 2024 at 10:15 am
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Comments on SB 3122, SD1
Relating To Public Health Standing Orders**

My name is Michael Robinson and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write to provide comments on SB 3122, SD1 which authorizes the Director of Health to issue public health standing orders for patients to self-refer to certain healthcare screening services. HPH supports the intent of this measure, recognizing that in light of the current shortages of healthcare professionals at all levels, many patients face difficulties obtaining necessary diagnostic screening.

There are a number of operational and implementation challenges that should be considered before the program can become functioning, including the administrative burden on a state agency. Should this committee decide that a working group would be meaningful in examining this matter, HPH would be willing to be a part of the discussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3122-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 11:22:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Bumgardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **support SB 3122** which would support public health standing orders. Public health standing orders can empower both clinical and non-clinical staff to integrate evidence-based recommendations into the practice’s workflow. Standing orders can focus on screenings, immunizations, labs, and point of care testing. As a Clinical Pharmacist, I have been able to use standing orders in my practice to impact public health initiatives related to specifically to the area of hepatitis elimination for both screenings for hepatitis infection and immunizations to protect vulnerable patients. Standing orders are an invaluable tool in our toolkit for achieving a HepFree Hawaii by 2030.

SB-3122-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 9:11:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Ruddick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

(CPN) Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and members of the committee

(JDC) Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the committee

I support SB 3122 which would support public health standing orders. Public health standing orders can empower both clinical and non-clinical staff to integrate evidence-based recommendations into the practice's workflow. Standing orders can focus on screenings, immunizations, labs, and point of care testing.

SB-3122-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 10:18:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha CPN and JDC Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee members,

As a public health professional, I write in **UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT** of SB3122 SD1, which would authorize the Director of Health to issue public health standing orders for patients to self-refer to certain healthcare screening services.

Given the ongoing provider shortage in Hawai'i, it is important to mobilize all members of our health system to support community health. This bill would provide additional opportunities for people to receive recommended and evidence-based screening and medical services, which would improve health outcomes and alleviate the burden on local providers. The American Academy of Family Physicians notes that standing orders can increase efficiency and reduce physician workloads (<https://www.aafp.org/pubs/fpm/issues/2018/0500/p13.html>)

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration of this important bill, which could improve the health of Hawai'i at the community level.

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

Date: February 20, 2024

To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: **Support for SB 3122 SD1**, Relating to Public Health Standing Orders

Hrg: Friday February 23, 2024 at 10:15 am Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

Aloha Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Judiciary,

As a parent, community member and healthcare professional I am writing in **strong support for SB 3122 SD1**, which authorizes the Director of Health to issue public health standing orders for patients to self-refer to certain health care screening services.

Public health standing orders empower both clinical and non-clinical staff to integrate evidence-based recommendations into the practice's workflow. Standing orders can focus on screenings, immunizations, labs, and point of care testing.

Standing orders improve access to included health care screening services, especially on the neighbor islands chronically impacted by provider shortages.

During the COVID-19 pandemic federal authorization (e.g., PREP) demonstrated how extending the scope of care provided by Hawai'i health professionals beyond their currently licensed limits, while within the spectrum of their professional training, helped protect the wellbeing of all of the people of our communities, including our kupuna and keiki.

Providing the Director of Health authorization to issue public health standing orders gives Hawai'i a local tool to quickly respond to unexpected/emerging health care needs.

I **strongly support SB 3122 SD1**, respectfully ask you to reject this bill.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Forrest Batz, PharmD
Keaau, HI