



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA
SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, February 27, 2024
10:01 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and via Video Conferencing

On the following measure:
S.B. 3129, S.D. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gordon Ito, and I am the Insurance Commissioner for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Hui Ho'omana task force within the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality health care for state residents, including defining action plan items, setting timeline and deadline for each action item, and identifying resources required and funding options.

The Department supports efforts to improve the quality and affordability of health care in order to bend the health care cost curve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-3129-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 2:49:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/27/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John C Jack Lewin MD	Testifying for Hawaii State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Chair Jarrett Keohokalole and

Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga:

SHPDA Position: SUPPORT with one comment.

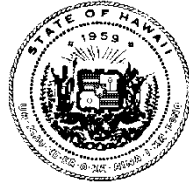
SHPDA strongly supports SB 3129 SD1 as amended. We stand on our previous testimony, however, believe in addition to having the Hui Ho'omana Task Force report back the Legislature before the beginning of the 2025 Opening Session, and later with a follow-up report before the end of the 2025 Legislature based on comments and feedback from Legislators, the public, and the Hawai'i health sector as required in SD1, we suggest that the Task Force not be terminated until June of 2026 in case additional feedback and progress on envisioning Hawai'i's ideal approach to achieving and maintaining universal access to high-quality, equitable, and affordable health care is requested, needed, and desirable. There are no financial implications whatsoever.

Mahalo nui loa,

John C (Jack) Lewin MD

Administrator, SHPDA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 25, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3129 SD1 - RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Hearing: February 27, 2024, 10:01 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the bill and defers to the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) on implementation and resource needs.

PURPOSE: This measure establishes the Hui Ho'omana task force within the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality health care for state residents, including defining action plan items, setting timeline and deadline for each action item, and identifying resources required and funding options. Requires reports to the Legislature. Dissolves the task force on 7/1/2025. Takes effect 12/31/2050. (SD1)

The Committee on Health and Human Services amended this measure by:

- (1) Replacing the President of the Hawaii Nurses Association with the Executive Director of the Hawaii – American Nurses Association;
- (2) Changing the name of the American Association of Retired Persons to AARP Hawaii;

- (3) Requiring the task force to submit its final report to the Legislature before its dissolution date of July 1, 2025, rather than before the conclusion of the Regular Session of 2025;
- (4) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

DHS appreciates the Legislature's continued investment in and attention to universal access to high-quality health care. DHS will gladly participate as a member of the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 10:01 a.m.

By

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, Interim Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Clementina Ceria-Ulep, Dean
Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 3129 SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **support** of SB 3129 SD1 which establishes the Hui Ho'omana task force to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality healthcare for state residents. The purpose of the task force would be to make recommendations to achieve universal access and equity to quality healthcare at an affordable cost for our residents.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted and made worse preexisting challenges for some populations to achieve good health, in part due to inconsistent access to healthcare. Disparities in infection rates, hospitalizations and death were noted throughout Hawai'i and experienced by certain ethnicities more than others. Despite many efforts guided by community leaders to help with outreach and education, many health disparities continue today. Increasing healthcare insurance costs, low reimbursement rates to providers, healthcare workforce shortages combined with growing unaffordability for families and businesses are among the myriad reasons for poor access to care. Despite many efforts and partnerships among those in the health care sector and community leaders, coordinated efforts are needed to provide seamless access to care for all of Hawai'i's people, across community-based settings to clinics to inpatient, long-term, and home-based care settings.

The Hui Ho'omana task force would be an effective mechanism to outline processes and procedures that would move the state in the direction of achieving universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality healthcare. The John A. Burns School of Medicine appreciates and welcomes the opportunity to participate in the task force. We respectfully request that the Dean of the Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing or the Dean's designee be included as a voting member of the task force. The School of Nursing is an important contributor to the healthcare workforce in Hawai'i and would provide relevant insights to addressing the needs of the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**February 27, 2024 at 10:01 A.M.
Conference Room 229 and via Videoconference**

By

**Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**Comments on S.B. 3129, S.D. 1
RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee, thank you for hearing this measure which will establish the Hui Ho‘omana task force. This task force, to be convened by the State Health Planning and Development Agency within the Department of Health, will identify actionable priorities and financial resources to offer the State's residents universal and equitable access to affordable high-quality healthcare and health insurance.

The designated members of the task force represent a wide array of experts in state government, healthcare administration, healthcare professions, insurance, and patient advocacy. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing commends the Legislature, the Department of Health, and SHPDA for identifying a broad and representative group.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing recognizes that the nursing workforce and healthcare access work hand in hand. As the state's nursing workforce center, it would be a privilege and honor to contribute to this important undertaking.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in recognition of this important effort, and to offer our willingness to engage in the process.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 27, 2024

LATE

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Jarrett Keohokalole and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB3129 SD1 RELATING TO HEALTH

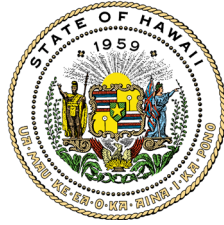
The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB3129 SD1**, which establishes the Hui Ho'omana task force within the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality health care for state residents, including defining action plan items, setting timeline and deadline for each action item, and identifying resources required and funding options. Requires reports to the Legislature. Dissolves the task force on 7/1/2025. Takes effect 12/31/2050. (SD1)

The purpose of the State Health Planning & Development Agency (SHPDA) is to "promote accessibility for all the people of the State to quality health care services at reasonable cost." We support legislation to upgrade SHPDA's healthcare oversight capability. We defer to SHPDA for comments and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB3129 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



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

KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3129
RELATING TO HEALTHCARE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR
SENATOR CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Tuesday, February 27, 10:01 A.M. Conference Room 229

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) supports this measure.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** Establishes the Hui Ho'omana task force within the State Health
- 5 Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) to identify actionable priorities and financial
- 6 resources to offer the State's residents universal access to affordable, high-quality healthcare
- 7 and health insurance. EOA as a non-voting member of this task force, supports this measure,
- 8 and defers to SHPDA for amendments.
- 9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 10:01 am
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

To: Chair Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Associate Vice President, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Comments**
SB 3129 SD 1, Relating to Health

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices and assisted living facilities. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **comments** on this measure, which seeks to establish a group known as the hui ho`omana task force to achieve universal access to quality, equitable care at an affordable cost for the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii has long been a leader in visionary healthcare policy making. As noted in the findings of this measure, we are marking the 50th anniversary of the passage of the *Prepaid Health Healthcare Act*, a landmark law that has made access to affordable care a reality for most residents in the state and ensuring a lower uninsured rate than most any other state in the nation. By many measures, Hawaii is one of the healthiest states in the country, with high quality care delivered at much lower costs.

We appreciate the opportunity to be included in any discussions on the future of healthcare in the state, especially as it relates to how we can support providers and ensure continued access to care for all residents. Our members would prefer to opportunity to discuss potentially monumental changes to how providers are reimbursed, rather than implementing any new statutory or regulatory changes. Thank you for the opportunity for us to comment on this measure, and for your continued focus on building a sustainable healthcare system.



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facebook.com/AARPHawaii

The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Conference Room 229, 10:01 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii
RE: Support for S.B. 3129, SD1- Relating to Health

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez, and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii.

AARP Hawai'i supports S.B. 3129, SD1 which establishes a task force known as "hui ho'omana" be convened by the state health planning and development agency which will make recommendations to achieve universal access and equity to quality health care at affordable cost for state residents. AARP Hawai'i is honored to serve as one of the twenty-five voting task force members and help craft a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high quality health care for all state residents.

Having access to quality, timely healthcare services and a robust healthcare workforce is critical to keeping all Hawai'i residents healthy and well. While there are approximately 279,000 Medicare beneficiaries in the Hawai'i, there are still many residents under age 65 who may be at risk of becoming uninsured should they quit their jobs prematurely to become family caregivers, become seriously ill or lose their jobs for other reasons which result in the loss of their health benefits. This is one example of the different gap groups that would benefit if Hawaii can improve its health care coverage for all. AARP appreciates these efforts to increase equal access to quality and affordable health especially for kūpuna and their caregivers, residents in rural areas and others with limited income and health care coverage . Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support **S.B. 3129 SD1.**



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, February 27, 2024; 10:01 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 3129, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HEALTH.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 3129, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO HEALTH.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would establish the Hui Hoomana Task Force (Task Force) within the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) to make recommendations that further the goal of state residents achieving universal access and equity to quality healthcare at an affordable cost. Further, this bill would direct SHPDA to invite, among others, the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association or designee to participate in the Task Force.

This bill would take effect on December 31, 2050.

The HPCA has had preliminary discussions with the SHPDA Administrator and strongly supports this effort. We note that the State has a unique opportunity to utilize the vast experience that Dr. John (Jack) Lewin possesses to further many of the objectives that he spearheaded years ago when he devised the MedQUEST Program under the Waihee Administration. This concept later served as the basis for the federal Affordable Care Act, which is in existence today.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808.597.6550
www.papaolalokahi.org

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 10:01 AM, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

RE: SB 3129 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Position: COMMENT

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs,

Papa Ola Lokahi provides **comment** on SB 3129, which establishes an advisory to be named “Hui Ho‘omana” that would inform the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA). Papa Ola Lokahi stands in the current bill language to be a voting member of “Hui Ho‘omana.”

The work of SHPDA and function of the proposed “Hui Ho‘omana” does not, to our knowledge, conflict with any of Papa Ola Lokahi’s federal mandates, mission, or administrative agreements. Thus we assert that Papa Ola Lokahi is able to participate as delineated in SB 3129, which we will confirm if the legislation passes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **COMMENT** on this legislation.

Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

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

February 27, 2024
10:01 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference

Re: SB 3129, SD1 Relating to Health.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 3129, SD1, which establishes the Hui Ho‘omana task force within the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality healthcare for state residents, including defining action plan items, setting timeline and deadline for each action item, and identifying resources required and funding options.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i provides the following COMMENTS and AMENDMENT on SB 3129, SD1.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i is one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 274,000 members in Hawai‘i. In Hawai‘i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai‘i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i has more than 19 medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

The State of Hawai‘i has been a pioneer among the states in healthcare for decades. Notably, the Legislature’s passage of the Hawai‘i Prepaid Health Act (PHCA) in 1974 was the first in the nation to set minimum standards of healthcare coverage for workers. Under the PHCA, Hawaii has long boasted low uninsured rates. With the enactment of the ACA in 2010, many more residents obtained affordable health insurance. As part of one of the nation’s largest nonprofit integrated health care systems, Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i seeks to make healthcare more affordable and available to everyone.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i appreciates the opportunity to be included in the Hui Ho'omana task force and looks forward to continuing discussions on how we can ensure universal access and equity to quality healthcare at an affordable cost for state residents.

We request the committee accept a minor, technical amendment on Page 4, Lines 20-21:

The administrator of the state health planning and development agency shall invite the following individuals or their designees to participate on the hui ho'omana as voting members:

[...]

(3) The **regional ~~Hawaii Market~~ president of Kaiser Permanente Southern California and Hawaii region Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, or their designee;**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Tuesday, February 27, 2024; 10:01am
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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

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

Re: **Comments on SB 3129, SD1
Relating To Health**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. 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 3129, SD1 that establishes the Hui Ho'omana task force to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality healthcare for state residents. The purpose of the task force is to make recommendations to achieve universal access and equity to quality healthcare at an affordable cost for our residents.

When compared to other states, Hawai'i has an exceptional healthcare system that provides low-cost quality care and high rates of insurance coverage. However, HPH recognizes the existence of challenges to access to care for portions of our population who live in rural communities and due to social inequities for the underserved groups.

HPH has been working with SHPDA on similar issues related to access to healthcare through the Universal Access Advisory Council and is also a member of the Data Advisory Council, a subcommittee of the Universal Access Advisory Council. We are happy to have been invited and appreciate the opportunity to be a member of the Hui Ho'omana task force. We look forward to addressing the issues that would make Hawai'i's healthcare system stronger.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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

From: Jacce Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: February 27, 2024

Re: Comments SB3129 SD1 – Relating to Health

The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on SB3129 SD1, establishing the Hui Ho'omano task force within the SHPDA (DOH) to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to healthcare for residents of Hawaii.

Hawai'i has been a leader in providing residents quality healthcare due in large part to the Prepaid Healthcare Act of 1974. While by no means perfect, our state remains one of the archetypes for providing broad healthcare services across a diverse social and cultural landscape. As evolving technology and new challenges to access confront our state, this task force presents an opportunity to have key public and private stakeholders align key strategies to confront ongoing and future barriers to access.

We appreciate the proposed goals of the task force and see them being aligned with The Queen's Health System's mission to "fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i;" should this measure pass we welcome the opportunity to be a named member of this team.

The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

February 27, 2024

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

From: The Hawaii Association of Health Plans Public Policy Committee

Date/Location: Feb. 27, 2024; 10:01 a.m./Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony in support with comments for SB 3129 SD1 – Relating to Health.

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) respectfully supports SB 3129 SD1. HAHP is a statewide partnership that unifies Hawaii’s health plans to improve the health of Hawaii’s communities together. A majority of Hawaii residents receive their health coverage through a plan associated with one of our organizations.

HAHP supports efforts to create a task force of leaders from state government and Hawaii’s healthcare sector who will work collaboratively towards a goal of assuring affordable, high-quality, healthcare services in Hawaii. Furthermore, we believe that working together and coordinating our efforts is essential to identifying and prioritizing the actions needed to secure private, state, and federal funds to further these goals.

We respectfully request that a representative from the Hawaii Association of Health Plans be added to the workgroup. On page 4-5 in the section reading:

“The administrator of the state health planning and development agency shall invite the following individuals or their designees to participate on the hui hoomana as voting members:...” , we respectfully request that the following be added:

“The president of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans or their designee;”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 3129.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members

[AlohaCare](#) | [HMAA](#) | [HMSA](#) | [Humana](#) | [HWMG](#) | [Kaiser Permanente](#) | [MDX Hawaii](#) | [Ohana Health Plan](#) | [UHA Health Insurance](#) | [UnitedHealthcare](#)



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

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

Hearing: Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 10:01 AM, Conference Room 229

RE: **SB3129 SD1 Relating to Health**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB3129 SD1**. This measure establishes the Hui Ho‘omana task force within the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality health care for state residents, including defining action plan items, setting timeline and deadline for each action item, and identifying resources required and funding options; requires reports to the Legislature; and dissolves the task force on July 1, 2025.

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 supports and appreciates the leadership and attention from the Governor’s administration and Legislature on the need for universal access and equity to quality health care at an affordable cost for state residents. We appreciate the intent to establish the Hui Ho‘omana task force to make recommendations toward these goals. And as one stakeholder among many across the health care delivery system, we appreciate the inclusion of AlohaCare as part of the hui.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SB3129 SD1**.