



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 23, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 3125 SD1 – Relating to Medical Care for Minors

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 3125 SD1 – Relating to Medical Care for Minors.

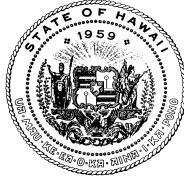
This bill authorizes minors who are fourteen years or older to consent to medical care for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and family planning services, including the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. Requires confidentiality policies and practices for insurers and providers.

Minors may not want to inform their parents or legal guardians that they are sexually active or engaged in other sexual behaviors that put them at risk for sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy. Under this bill, minors who want or need medical care or family planning services may consent to receive such care or services without the consent of a spouse, parent, custodian, or guardian.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3125-SD1
RELATING TO MEDICAL CARE FOR MINORS**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing: Friday, February, 23, 2024; 10:30 AM; Conference Room 211

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) supports this measure.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing Division
- 4 (CDPHND) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.
- 5 The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB 3125-SD1 which
- 6 would permit minors to consent to medical care related to the prevention of sexually
- 7 transmitted infections, including HIV, and would update archaic terminology in §577A, HRS, by
- 8 replacing “venereal disease” with “sexually transmitted infection.” This measure would permit
- 9 licensed health care providers to submit insurance claims for minors who initiate medical care
- 10 and services pursuant this section, including minors covered by a parent or guardian’s health
- 11 insurance, and would protect the minor-initiated medical care and services from disclosure to
- 12 the minor’s parent or guardian.
- 13 Current statutes do not appear to permit a minor to consent to medical care related to the
- 14 **prevention** of sexually transmitted infections such as HIV. This measure would resolve this
- 15 critical gap in minor’s access to medical care. Medications taken by an HIV-uninfected individual

1 to prevent acquisition of HIV are safe and highly effective and were approved for use in minors
2 in 2018.

3 The Department strongly supports this bill as it could help prevent HIV acquisition in minors.
4 Permitting minors who cannot or will not seek the consent of their parents or guardians to
5 consent to HIV medical care is essential to the health of the minor and a valuable step in ending
6 the HIV epidemic in Hawai'i.

7 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 6:08:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 3125 SD 1.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 9:39:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pride at Work - Hawaii	Testifying for Pride at Work – Hawai‘i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i is an official chapter of Pride At Work which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. P@W-HI fully supports SB 3125 SD 1.

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i



To: Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date/Time: Friday Feb. 23, 2024 10:30 AM

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 3125

From: Daniel Gracia, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) **supports SB 3125** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHHRC runs a sexual health clinic and is one of the largest providers of PrEP in the islands. Young people are the largest growing age group contracting HIV and by passing SB 3125 you can help save lives!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Daniel Gracia, Sexual Health Navigator, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

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February 22, 2024

The Honorable Representative Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 3125 (Kouchi) - SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express Essential Access Health's (Essential Access) support for SB 3125 (Kouchi), which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. This bill would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

Essential Access champions and promotes quality sexual and reproductive health care for all. We achieve our mission through an umbrella of programs and services including clinic support initiatives, provider training, advanced clinical research, advocacy, and public awareness campaigns.

Essential Access currently supports the delivery of Title X-funded services that serves more than 14,000 family planning patients annually on O'ahu, Maui, and the Big Island. We support Title X-funded providers to provide a range of family planning services to support the needs of youth and people with low-incomes, such as birth control, STI services, pregnancy testing and options counseling, and cancer screenings.

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass SB 3125 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amy M.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Co-CEO
Essential Access Health

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 7:56:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lisa kau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

I strongly support SB3125, which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. This bill would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass SB3125 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lisa Lee

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 10:02:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerestin Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee, I **strongly support SB3125**, which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. This bill would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass SB3125 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Kerestin Walker

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 1:34:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

I strongly support SB3125, which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. This bill would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass SB3125 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

Amanda Allison

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 1:39:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

I **strongly support SB3125**, which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. This bill would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass SB3125 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Amanda Martinez, MPH

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 10:15:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and WAM Committee members,

As a concerned citizen and public health professional, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB3125**, which would increase access to recommended medical care and life-saving medications for minors 14-17.

This bill would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

The health and economic impact of HIV infections far exceeds the costs of prevention, with some estimates showing savings of millions of dollars over time (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3690921/>). Please help ensure the health of our keiki, our future workforce, and our local economy is protected.

Mahalo for your consideration of this important issue.

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and committee members,

My name is Lizette Porter and I am writing to you to show my SUPPORT for SB3125 which would give minors ages 14 or older to seek and receive medical care and services for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and family planning services, including the prevention of sexually transmitted infections without parental/guardian consent. It also requires that health insurance plans and health care providers maintain confidentiality policies and practices.

As an adult who was raised in a “traditional household” where sex or sex education was non-existent I found myself in situations that would require me to visit a clinic in search of birth control, and STD/Pregnancy tests. I would give incorrect information in order to receive services and not have to worry about my parents finding out. I was too scared to ask my parents and sometimes I didn't look to get services because I required a parent to come with me. To many families sex and sex education is a taboo subject and may affect the relationship between a minor and their parent/guardian. By passing SB3125 minors who may be in need of family planning services, pregnancy tests or planning, and STD treatment and prevention services can look for and receive these services without hesitation and with no fear of disappointing or upsetting their parent/guardian.

As a parent I understand the need for parents to be involved and informed of what their minor children are doing, especially with something so delicate as their sexual health. I feel that I have developed a strong enough relationship that my own children would ask me for help. But for whatever reason my minor child does not feel comfortable coming to me, I will feel good knowing that my child would still have accessibility to receive services. Not every minor child has this type of relationship with their parents/guardian and passing SB3125 will give them the power and control over their own sexual health. Please vote for and pass SB3125.



To: Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date/Time: Friday Feb. 23, 2024 10:30 AM

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 3125

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) **supports SB 3125** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHHRC runs a sexual health clinic and is one of the largest providers of PrEP in the islands. Young people are the largest growing age group contracting HIV and by passing SB 3125 you can help save lives!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

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SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:27:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Ramirez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the committee.

I strongly supports SB 3125 SD 1 which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The CDC strongly recommends PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV!

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease. The Age of consent in the state of Hawaii is 14 for mental health and 16 for sexual identification- therefore people this age should have access to PrEP.

Please pass this bill

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Thanks

Rick Ramirez, DNP, APRN, AG-ACNP-BC, FNP-BC, ENP-C, CEN, CPEN

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:15:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the committee.

I strongly supports SB 3125 SD 1 which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass this bill that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:47:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D. Keali'i MacKenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

I strongly support SB3125, which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. This bill would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access it without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass SB3125 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

D. Keali'i MacKenzie

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 1:00:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maddalynn Sesepasara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

I strongly support SB3125, which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. This bill would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass SB3125 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Maddalynn Sesepasara

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:42:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Katz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the committee.

As a physician and infectious disease epidemiologist who focuses on sexually transmitted infections, I **strongly support** and urge you to pass SB 3125 SD 1.

Primary prevention (preventing an infection or disease from occurring), when possible, has consistently been shown to be the best prevention strategy.

According to the CDC, HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) reduces the risk of contracting HIV from sex by 99%!

Unfortunately, new HIV cases continue to occur despite the availability of PrEP, as availability does not equal easy accessibility.

Approximately 1/5 of all new cases in the US are in the age range of 13-24 years among persons who contracted their infection through male to male sex.

Sexual behaviors are private, and accessing effective STI and HIV prevention is challenging especially for young people who most often need to rely on parental insurance to cover health related activities.

This bill would allow a minor to access highly effective HIV prevention services without the need for parental notification.

It would be optimal if every family had loving, accepting, and caring relations, and children could openly discuss their sexual activities with their parents, but unfortunately, this is not reality.

Passage of SB 3125 SD 1 would remove a critical barrier to accessing a prevention strategy that has proven to be lifesaving.

Thank you in advance for your positive consideration.

Al Katz, MD, MPH

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:38:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RUSSELL ABORDO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the committee.

I strongly support SB 3125 SD 1 which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease. Especially if coming from a very conservative or religious background.

I implore you to please pass this bill that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 3:20:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki-Ann Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

I **strongly support SB3125**, which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. This bill would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent to life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. It is vital for them to have access to this life-saving medication and do so without parental consent, so they are not forced to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass SB3125 so that our youth have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-3125-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:05:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB3125 by Senator Kouchi. I see that it is also part of Governor Green's package. Please pass this very important bill.

Medical care for young people is always a challenge. However, when it comes down to it, the consent should always default to person whose body is involved. We would all hope that minor teens could talk to their parents about medical issues, particularly those that involve sexual activity.. Unfortunately that is not always the case. Too often these teens are not supported and find themselves in danger from abusive parents. They are then in life-threatening situations from unwanted accidental pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and lack of access to birth control. It is so much better to provide young people with the ability to make choices based on medical information rather than fear.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Hawaiian Paradise Park

Keaau, HI 96749

CLIFFORD CHANG, MPH

RESIDENCE

4924 Wa'a Street
Honolulu, HI 96821-1446
Telephone: (808) 373-3654

BUSINESS

Principal
Clifford Chang Consulting
4924 Wa'a Street
Honolulu, HI 96821-1446
Cell phone: (808) 347-8035
Email: <cliffordchangconsulting@yahoo.com>

Date: February 22, 2024
To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
Re: Strong support for SB3125 SD1 Relating to Medical Care for Minors

My name is Clifford Chang, testifying today both as the principal in my public health consulting business, Clifford Chang Consulting, and as a private individual with over 40 years of public health experience. I have been professionally involved in HIV, STD and AIDS prevention for over 11 years, including working at the State Diamond Head HIV and STD Clinic as the State's first ever HIV/STD Prevention Health Educator, and have continued my direct involvement on a voluntary basis for over 27 years.

I am testifying in **strong support, for SB3125 SD1**, which authorizes minors who are 14 years or older to consent to medical care for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and family planning services, including the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and requires confidentiality policies and practices for insurers and providers. SB3125 SD1 increases access to medical care for minors 14-17, and specifically would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV; while we do not have studies to document this here in Hawai'i, the Honolulu HIV provider experience, and anecdotal information supports that this is also the case here. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but does not allow them to access prevention measures such as PrEP. From my personal experience while working at the Diamond Head HIV/STD Clinic I know how vitally important it is for minors to have access to STD treatment without parental consent. Young people coming in for treatment would frequently tell me how grateful they were they could access such treatment without having to inform their parents they were sexually active, and worse, having contracted an STD. Many commented they were not sure they would have come in for treatment if it depended on their parents knowing.

That our youth, as minors, can be treated once they become infected with HIV or another STD, but currently they are not able to access proven prevention medications is both ironic and simply wrong. HB 2436 corrects this deficiency.

There is this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, as of now here in Hawai'i those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease. Minors have the capacity to make decisions regarding prevention, just as they would for treatment. Enabling minors to consent to PrEP not only safeguards their health but also strengthens our collective efforts to create healthier communities and curb the spread of HIV/AIDS.

I ask and urge you to support and pass SB3125 SD1 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy. Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,



Clifford Chang

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee.

I am a community health worker in the field of sexual health. I provide HIV and STI testing, as well as assist patients with getting on PrEP, a medication that prevents HIV infection.

I **strongly support SB 3125**, a bill to increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. SB 3125 would give 14–17-year-olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. Currently the HRS for minor consent allows minors to consent to the treatment of sexually related diseases, including HIV, but does not allow access to prevention measures such as PrEP. It's unfortunate that we are forced to wait until a minor contracts HIV before we can help them, rather than provide important medication that can prevent HIV infection in the first place.

This life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, has been a gift in the fight against new HIV infections but those 14-17 cannot access it without parental consent. For too many people that means that an individual must decide between sharing intimate information that could negatively impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease. For too many, that means they will go without.

As a gay man, I can personally attest that this medication has been life changing, and life saving for many people in my life. I wish PrEP had been around when I was a teenager, but even if it had, my parents would never have consented for me to have it. They would have viewed the possibility of contracting HIV as God's punishment. There are too many people today living with family/legal guardians that hold to such a view. And they need your help.

Please pass SB 3125, it will save lives.

Thank you for letting me testify,
Michael Paul