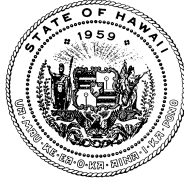


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



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

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

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB1421
RELATING TO MEDICAL RECORDS**

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

Hearing Date/Time: February 3, 2025; 1:00 PM Room Number: 225

- 1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports SB1421, which is part of the
- 2 Governor's Administrative Package. Requiring approval from the Director of Health for the
- 3 disposition of patient medical records is ineffective and outdated. Modern electronic medical
- 4 record systems have features that provide security, redundancy, and persistence for medical
- 5 records, including patient accessibility through secure portals.
- 6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

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

Date: February 3, 2025

Re: Support for SB1421 – Relating to Medical Records

The Queen's Health Systems (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 supports of SB1421, which repeals the requirement for the Department of Health to approve a provider's arrangement for the retention and preservation of patients' medical records prior to ceasing operations; it also clarifies that retention and preservation of medical records must be consistent with federal and state regulations.

We appreciate the Department of Health's and the Legislature's commonsense approach to modernizing the state's approach to medical record retention. As noted in the preamble of the measure, providers must comply with a set of federal and state regulations (including those under HIPPA, CMS, etc.) that require medical records be retained for certain number of years. This bill would remove a redundant approval requirement that could allow greater flexibility and efficiency when a provider intends to close practice.

Mahalo for allowing us to provide testimony in support of SB1421.

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.