



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1120
RELATING TO NUISANCES

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: **02/07/2025, 8:45 A.M.**

Room Number: **329**

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will not impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
- 2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
- 3 personnel priorities.
- 4 **Department Position:** The Department **supports** the HB1120 measure.
- 5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD), Vector Control
- 6 Branch (VCB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.
- 7 HB1120 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 322, Part 1, Removal, prevention (of
- 8 nuisances) by adding "Abatement, Destruction" and "public or environmental" to clarify that
- 9 the Department has the legal authority and obligation to prevent and address nuisances that
- 10 affect public health, environmental health, or both. The additional language updates the
- 11 statute and aligns it with Departmental practices and purposes, ensuring that the Department
- 12 has clear legal authority to act in the interests of public and environmental health, particularly
- 13 concerning invasive species control and biosecurity.
- 14 HRS, Chapter 322-1, pertains to the abatement of nuisances which are found to be dangerous
- 15 or injurious. HRS, Chapter 322-1, directs the Department to examine all nuisances, including
- 16 foul or noxious odors, gases or vapors, water in which mosquito larvae exist, sources of filth,

1 and all causes of sickness or disease, onshore and in any vessel, which the Department
2 determines are dangerous or injurious to health. Further, HRS, Chapter 322-1, authorizes the
3 Department to cause the dangerous or injurious nuisance to be abated, destroyed, removed, or
4 prevented. However, as currently written, the language in HRS, Chapter 322-1 directs the
5 Department to act when a nuisance is dangerous or injurious to “health,” which leaves
6 ambiguity whether “health” does or does not broadly include “environmental health” or
7 whether “health” refers solely to an individual’s health rather than public health.

8 Incorporating “public or environmental” into HRS 322-1 simultaneously acknowledges and
9 directs the Department’s actions when nuisances directly threaten public health and/or
10 environmental health. The proposed language enhances clarity and readability in the statute
11 and aligns with a One Health approach to safeguarding our communities from disease.

12

13 **Offered Amendments:** e.g., None

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

HB-1120

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:40:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose 1120 HB RELATING TO NUISANCES

Dear honorable committee members,

This bill on the surface sounds good, but the language is incredible broad and gives the DOH way too much authority. As a constituent that has Covid Shell Shock from the arbitrary and non-scientific rules made up during Covid, the DOH needs greater oversight from Legislation. This bill needs more definition of what they can and cannot do and what health nuisances are exactly. It seriously could be anything!

Thank you,

Dawn P.

Honolulu, HI 96813

HB-1120

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:25:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Cunningham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1120

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:41:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Lia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is government overreach that violates my right to privacy.

HB-1120

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:32:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

HB-1120

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:26:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

HB-1120

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:34:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE