

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 HO'OKELE

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 SB1421 SD1 HD1  
RELATING TO MEDICAL RECORDS**

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID TARNAS, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date/Time: March 25, 2025; 2:00 PM

Room Number: 325

- 1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports SB1421 SD1 HD1, which requires
- 2 health care providers, prior to ceasing operations, to notify patients at their last known address
- 3 on how to access or request their medical records. SB1421 SD1 HD1 will allow patients to safely
- 4 transfer their confidential medical history to their succeeding health care providers.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

To: The Honorable David A Tarnas, Chair  
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

Date: March 25, 2025

Re: Support for SB1421 SD1 HD1 – Relating to Medical Records

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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 SB1421 SD1 HD1, 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 and requires providers to notify patients on how to access or request copies of their medical records.

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

Mahalo for allowing us to provide testimony in support of SB1421 SD1 HD1.

*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.*