

**HB-308**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:03:45 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/11/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
HMS DIR Mimari Hall	Department of Human Services	Comments	No

Comments:

I am available for comments.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
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February 10, 2021

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 308 – RELATING TO GRANTS FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

Hearing: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

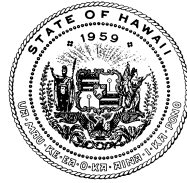
**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments. We respectfully request that any appropriation not impact budget priorities identified in the executive budget. DHS defers to the Department of Health.

**PURPOSE:** This bill establishes a federal grant coordinator position within the office of the director of health (HTH 907). Provides that the federal grant coordinator shall coordinate the planning and preparation of grant proposals for the department of health and the department of human services to ensure that both departments maximize their receipt of federal grant moneys. Appropriates moneys.

A dedicated position within the Department of Health or the Department of Human Services would support efforts to develop competitive grant proposals for federal and other privately funded grant opportunities. As part of the State's overall recovery effort, a grants coordinator is a good investment of limited state general funds and human resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB308  
RELATING TO GRANT FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

REP. RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: February 11, 2021      Room Number: N/A

1    **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of HB308,  
2    which is to maximize federal funds related to health and human services. The department defers  
3    to the Executive Biennium Request for prioritization of new positions and funding sources.  
4    Historically, the state of Hawaii has not brought in as many federal funds related to health as  
5    have other states with similar population sizes, in large part due to lack of support for grants  
6    development. For example, according to an analysis of U.S. Department of Health and Human  
7    Services data, in FY 2021, Hawaii brought in \$543,223,060 from HHS sources (approx.  
8    \$384,000 per capita). For comparison, in FY 2021 and from HHS sources, Maine brought in  
9    \$682,744,785 (approx. \$508,000 per capita), Rhode Island brought in \$648,712,476 (approx.  
10    \$612,000 per capita), and Alaska brought in \$1,266,528,621 (approx. \$1,731,000 per capita).  
11    Additional federal grant funds may be drawn down if DOH and the Department of Human  
12    Services, to begin with, were more robustly supported through training and capacity-building (in  
13    the processes of budget/appropriations and grantseeking); identification of grant opportunities;  
14    elicitation of innovative grant proposals; fostering of cross-sector partnerships; technical  
15    assistance with grant writing and the pre- and post-award processes; and evaluation. A  
16    partnership with the University of Hawaii (UH) system in this regard would add even greater  
17    value due to UH's expertise in grants development and the budget and appropriations processes,  
18    and may be considered in scope for this measure.

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1 Enabling statute may inspire DOH, DHS, and UH to collaborate to:

- 2 • Understand the current grant-seeking landscape in Hawai‘i,
- 3 • Build capacity across all sectors – nonprofit, public, private – to pursue competitive
- 4 funding from federal, foundation, corporate and other sources,
- 5 • Increase general understanding of the elements of grantsmanship to improve the quality
- 6 of grant applications,
- 7 • Source innovative funding ideas and refine them to be competitive,
- 8 • Encourage cross-sector collaborations to support sustainable solutions with broad
- 9 community support,
- 10 • Generate investment toward providing matching funds,
- 11 • Establish and solidify relationships with funders, and
- 12 • Boost the number of grants submitted to various sources from Hawai‘i entities.

13 This will result in greater leveraging of state and federal programs to improve health and health  
14 care in Hawaii and the Pacific, including through advancing health in all policies, on top of  
15 maximizing the ability of the state of Hawaii to bring in federal dollars.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

17 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

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**Testimony to the House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness  
Thursday, February 11, 2021; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1308, RELATING TO GRANTS FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, 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** House Bill No. 1308, RELATING TO GRANTS FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2021-2022, and the same amount for fiscal year 2022-2023, to establish one full-time equivalent permanent federal grant coordinator position within the Office of the Director of Health.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines 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.

Because the majority of our patients are Medicaid recipients, reimbursement for services provided at FQHCs is extremely complex given the multiple streams of funding received from the federal and State governments. The availability of funding is often volatile due to changes in federal and State laws as well as the manner in which these laws are implemented and enforced. In this environment, it is not only prudent but necessary for the State to seek new sources of funding and devise creative ways of capturing and securing resources.

Accordingly, we **SUPPORT** this measure and urge your favorable consideration.

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](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).