



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

H.B. 2516, Relating to the Department of Health

Testimony of Gary Gill
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration

February 26, 2014
10:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** COMMENTS.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Unquantified expenses to update documents, web sites, and signage.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of HB2516 is to change the name of the Department of Health
4 (DOH) to the Department of Health and Environmental Services, effective January 1, 2015.

5

6 The proposed name change may have the effect of a more conspicuous, and perhaps more accurate name
7 given the agency's overlapping responsibilities, one of which is environmental health, but which also
8 includes behavioral health, health care, and public health. However, DOH will continue to prioritize all
9 threats to and opportunities for public health regardless of the name and pursuant to Hawaii Revised
10 Statutes.

11

12 DOH acknowledges conspicuous mention of "Department of Health and Environmental Services"
13 would help draw attention to the breadth of environmental issues that the Department of Health
14 currently handles.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

The House Committee on Health may also consider alternatives such as:

- Department of Health and Environment; and
- Department of Health and Environmental Protection.

Should this bill pass from committee, DOH recommends an amendment for a blank appropriation amount for any expenses associated with a name change, including but not limited to procurement for web design and production, printing, and public messaging and education to minimize confusion and inconvenience to the public and other governmental agencies as it makes the transition.

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