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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1383  
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.**

REP. JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 14, 2019

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the repeal of the Board of Health  
3 for two primary reasons.

4 The first is that the entire Board has been vacant for the past several years due to a lack of  
5 interest from members willing to serve. Section 26-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, established 11  
6 members appointed by the Governor, but despite recruitment efforts the department has been  
7 unable to convene a Board that meets quorum.

8 The second justification is that an advisory board for a centralized state public health agency is  
9 no longer necessary due to the evolution of state and federal regulations, community standards of  
10 practice, grant guidance, and legislative oversight.

11 Boards of Health often add value to local or municipal jurisdictions on the mainland where they  
12 often have supervision, enforcement, and policy-making authority. However the scope of the  
13 Hawaii Department of Health is too broad and complex – spanning public health, behavioral  
14 health, and environmental protection – for meaningful advisement by a generalist board.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB1383.

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

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