



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

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2724  
RELATING TO LEAD-BASED PAINT**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 3/12/2020

Room Number: Auditorium

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** This measure seeks to prohibit the use of lead-based paint on outdoor  
3 structures, whether applied to new outdoor structures or already existing outdoor structures after  
4 December 31, 2021.

5 The Department of Health shares your concern about lead exposure in Hawaii, particularly  
6 childhood lead poisoning, and supports the proposed prohibition on the use of lead-based paint  
7 on outdoor structures. This prohibition removes future sources of lead from the environment and  
8 will have a similar public health impact as the ban on leaded gasoline implemented in 1985,  
9 which resulted in steady population-wide decreases in blood lead levels. In addition, there are a  
10 number of cases of the historical use of lead-based paint negatively impacting the people of  
11 Hawaii, such as contamination from lead-based paint on old railway bridges resulting in the  
12 temporary closure of two popular parks on the Hamakua Coast of Hawaii Island. The enactment  
13 of this bill would prevent future problems like this and continue to minimize the amount of lead  
14 contamination in the environment, thereby enhancing the public health of the people of Hawaii.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

**SB-2724**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 9:19:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/12/2020 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ramic P.H. Santiago	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative John Mizuno, Chair

Committee on Health

Ramic P.H. Santiago, BS

1614 Emerson Street #5

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Date of Hearing

Thursday, March 12, 2020

9:00 AM

Capital Auditorium State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

I am writing in support of SB2747

My name is Ramic Santiago and I am a social worker. I am also a former journeyman and house painter. I am testifying on the SB 2724 measure. I am testifying in favor of SB 2724.

There are important reasons I am testifying in favor of SB 2724. As a house painter throughout my 15 years of experience I have had to handle lead-based paint and in many cases unnotified or ill-equipped to handle disposal which was the majority of my lead-based paint experience. As a journeyman painter working for non-union employers I scraped lead-based paints on the exteriors of homes without protective equipment like respirators and disposable suits. Many times my non-union employers did not tell me or other employees that we were working with lead-based paints. I and other employees would scrape paint for extended hours accumulating lead-based dust in which we breathed and accumulated on our clothing that was taken home to our families. At times when I did find out that I was dealing with lead-based paint I was told to "Just deal with it" by my former employers. I was forced to have to work with lead-based paints in order to keep my job and feed my family. Painters and their families need to be protected from the harmful effects of lead-based paints. This bill would serve to ensure to protect the health and safety of painters, their families, and the environment by banning lead-based paint from exterior surfaces of buildings. Lastly, there are many exterior water-based and oil-based paints that can be used that are less harmful and just as effective as lead-based paints.

In closing, I again am writing in support of SB 2724.