



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 3180 S.D. 1  
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
Hearing Date: 2/22/2022 Room Number: CR 229 & Via  
Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) will need a staff position or funds to  
2 contract with a consultant to support the convening and facilitation of a rural health task force.  
3 The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is funded solely through federal grants. The  
4 Department requests that passage of any appropriations in this measure does not replace or  
5 adversely impact priorities in the Executive Budget request.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the intent of S.B. 3180 S.D. 1, which  
7 establishes a rural health task force within the DOH to make recommendations on registered  
8 nurse recruitment and retention in rural areas of east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. This measure  
9 may not be needed since it duplicates the efforts of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing (HSCN).  
10 The Department does not have the expertise and/or resources to implement the request as  
11 outlined in this measure which includes a needs assessment at each rural health care facility;  
12 managing the ratio of registered nurses to patients in each rural health care facility;  
13 recommendations for affordable workforce housing; surveying telehealth demand; identifying  
14 travel nurse options; analyzing nurse retention impact on rural health care facilities, researching  
15 best practices on retaining registered nurses; and preparation of a legislative report. Additionally,  
16 there may be insufficient time to convene the task force, develop actionable recommendations,  
17 propose legislation, and complete the report by the end of December 2022.

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



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, and Consumer Protection  
Tuesday, February 22, 2022; 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 3180, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, 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** Senate Bill No. 3180, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE, and offers a **PROPOSED AMENDMENT** for your consideration.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would establish a Rural Health Task Force (Task Force) within the Department of Health (DOH) to prepare and develop solutions and make recommendations regarding rural areas of east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai, with specific emphasis on the recruitment and retention of registered nurses.

The State of Hawaii is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals in the workforce, especially in rural areas. Recent studies note that the current shortage of physicians is at 20% of the total full-time equivalent positions throughout the State. The shortage is especially severe in the fields of primary care, infectious diseases, colorectal surgery, pathology, general surgery, pulmonology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, family medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, rheumatology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, and pediatric subspecialties of endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, hematology/oncology, and gastroenterology.

Physicians are not the only professionals in high demand. The same also applies to registered nurses.

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 3180, Senate Draft 1**  
**Tuesday, February 22, 2022; 10:00 a.m.**  
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This bill would provide the DOH with assistance from the health care providers in east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai in developing tangible action steps to assist with the recruitment and retention of registered nurses in these areas.

When the HPCA previously submitted testimony on this bill and its companion, House Bill No. 1635, we constrained our recommendation to the membership of FQHCs that were physically situated on Lanai, Molokai, and east Maui, as specified in the bill. However, after discussing the matter with all of the CEO's the area FQHCs, we note that four FQHCs work together as a team to provide primary care to the people of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai, in their entirety. They are:

Malama I Ke Ola Health Center;  
Molokai Community Health Center;  
Lanai Community Health Center; and  
Hana Health.

Because of this, the HPCA respectfully asks that membership for the Task Force be expanded to also include Malama I Ke Ola Health Center. That way all FQHCs providing services in the area will be able to participate in this effort.

With this amendment, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

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).

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**Hearing: February 22, 2022 @ 10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

By Hawai‘i – American Nurses Association (Hawai‘i-ANA)



**COMMENTS ON SB3180, SD1 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair Stanley Chang and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, for this opportunity to provide comments on SB3180, SD1 Relating to Health Care. If enacted, this measure will create a task force that includes the directors or designees of health and of human services, representatives of the department of health’s public health nursing section and office of primary care and rural health, and representatives from health care facilities from Hana, Moloka‘i, and Lāna‘i.

We are Hawai‘i - American Nurses Association (Hawai‘i-ANA) and we speak for over 15,000 Registered Nurses in our state. Hawai‘i-ANA respectfully concurs with our colleagues at the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing, that this work is already being undertaken and currently involves the partners named in this task force, and more. Hawai‘i-ANA continuously works with coalitions of nursing organizations and stakeholders, including the partners named in this taskforce, and the Board of Nursing and Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing. We are committed to supporting this collaborative work and efforts by the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing that focus on the need for Registered Nurses in rural and underserved areas of our state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information as it relates to your decision making on this measure.

Thank you for your continued support for measures that address the need to recruit and retain healthcare professionals especially in our rural communities.

Contact information for Hawai‘i – American Nurses Association

President: Katie Kemp, BAN, RN-BC  
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**SB-3180-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 2:45:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/22/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee members

Rural communities often do not have the funding or the resources that those in urban communities do. This is especially true when it comes to medication and health care. It would be unfair for me to advocate specifically for the communities as I have never been a part of them, nor have I visited them. But I have heard stories from friends on the mainland getting treatment from similar communities on the mainland and how it has impacted them growing up, how doctors and nurses denied them treatments and performed incorrect procedures based on outdated practices. So I think that it would be in the interest of the state to pass this bill to make sure that the people in rural communities dont get left behind.

So please pass this bill.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

From: Janice Kalanihuia, President, Molokai General Hospital – The Queen's Health Systems  
Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 22, 2022

Re: In support of SB 3180 SD1 – Relating to Health Care

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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 1,500 affiliated physicians and providers 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 appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3180 SD1, which establishes the rural health task force within the department of health to make recommendations on registered nurse recruitment and retention in rural areas of east Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Since 2019, Hawaii has experienced more than 900 nurses leaving the workforce due to the rise of Covid-19, cost of living, and the lack of affordable housing; this shortage has impacted our rural communities the most. We appreciate the legislature taking this proactive approach to help address our current nursing workforce shortage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 3180 SD1.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems 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.*