

**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

John C. (Jack) Lewin, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea St., #402, Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

February 24, 2024

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Governor's Message No. 607
Nomination of John C. (Jack) Lewin MD to the position of Administrator,
Hawai'i State Health Planning and Development Agency

Dear Senator San Buenaventura:

Mahalo for the opportunity to reach out to you ahead of my confirmation hearing to submit response to the questions posed in your letter of February 20.

1. Description of experience in the field of the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA), or related field:

- While a practicing physician in internal medicine (primary care), public health, cardiovascular medicine, and health policy throughout my career, I know Hawai'i's health system well. I practiced clinical medicine in my early career in Maui in various roles, including seven years as a staff physician at Maui Memorial Hospital (HHSC), including working in the half-time (mornings) in intensive care unit, Chairing the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee; and serving simultaneously half-time (afternoons) as Chief Physician at Kula Hospital and Director of Kula Clinic for HHSC prior to being appointed as Hawai'i's Director of Health in January 1986 by Governor John Waihe'e.
- My most significant experience related to the functions of and familiarity with SHPDA itself was as Hawai'i's Director of Health from 1986 to 1994 under Governor John Waihe'e. The DOH Director indirectly oversees SHPDA, which is administratively attached to the DOH, and I worked closely over those years with Kina'u Kamali'i, the then Administrator, on many health policy matters, on streamlining the Certificate of Need (CON) program and collaborating on inventorying and updating Hawai'i's statewide facilities and services in health and long term care. But SHPDA's original statutory goal to serve as Hawai'i's health care oversight agency was never funded or realized.

- Other relevant experience in health planning, and in improving health care access, equity, quality improvement, and cost-effectiveness was gained as:
 - Director of Health for the tri-state (Arizona, New Mexico, Utah) Navajo Nation as a US Public Health Service Physician Commissioned Officer;
 - CEO of the American College of Cardiology in Washington DC; and
 - President/CEO of the Cardiovascular Research Foundation (New York, New York).

- In terms of health system reform efforts:
 - Assisted the Waihe'e Administration with full implementation of the Prepaid Health Care Act (PHCA) as Director of Health after it was rescued from a decade of legal challenges by the US Chamber and business community through a Congressional exemption from ERISA (the Employee Retirement Income Security Act);
 - Designed and implemented the State Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) in 1990 to provide coverage to Hawai'i's remaining uninsured population. SHIP was later folded into Med-QUEST;
 - Worked with President Clinton and the First Lady on her health reform plan, based on the PHCA, which was unsuccessful;
 - Worked with California's Governor Gray Davis and Speaker Willie Brown on the successful passage of the California version of the PHCA, but which was overturned by incoming Governor Schwarzenegger and his party by ballot initiative, and;
 - Worked with President Obama on the Affordable Care Act.
 - My bio is attached.

2. Assessment of strengths and weaknesses:

- Strengths: I stand on my career record. I am asked by our Governor to help coordinate development and achievement of his vision of "universal access to high-quality, equitable, and affordable health care for ALL: my entire career has been focused on this elusive national and state goal. Nothing could excite me more. I have a determination to 'get things done' when assigned as my kuleana. I enjoy challenges and working with others to create a shared vision. I consider myself an ethical manager, a team player, and an honest and capable communicator.

- Weaknesses: I can be impatient when things get bureaucratically bogged down. But I am learning to transform the frustration of impatience into considerate determination.
3. Assessment of the agency's (SHPDA's) strengths and weaknesses:
- Strengths: SHPDA (once federally funded with 65 staff in the 1970s) is currently a team of 6, focused mainly on the CON and inventorying state health and long term care facilities and services. It does those limited but important things well. Every member of the team is competent and dedicated to the mission. And the team thinks the bigger mission and challenge of assuming the originally intended role of being the state health care oversight agency is sorely needed.
 - Weaknesses: 6 people cannot possibly take on effectively the broader, necessary health oversight role in monitoring and assuring health care access and workforce gaps, quality, equity, and cost-effectiveness for ALL in Hawai'i. We lack funding and staffing to tackle this essential mission.
4. Overall vision for SHPDA, specifically what goals can be accomplished in the next 4 years, what benchmarks can be used to evaluate progress?
- 2024: Build on the original impressive 1975 statutory mission with some additional improvements to fund and staff SHPDA as the Hawai'i health care oversight agency. This will depend initially on passage of SB 2285 SD1 with 7 new staff positions, \$1.93 M in funding in 2024. This also includes highly technical actuarial, data analytics, health policy consulting expertise to use existing sources of data and UH expertise to build the data reporting systems needed, and importantly to train the new staff to assume their necessary roles over the first three years of early operation. Other states with this capacity have shared that this approach will be necessary to move forward expeditiously.
 - 2025: Begin early reporting on statewide gaps in access, quality, equity and cost-effectiveness in 2025; including percent total spending on primary care, rural health, and improvements in long-term care spending for home and community based services.
 - 2026: More refined reporting in 2026 to include more sophisticated workforce improvement tracking (with UH, JABSOM, others), health status monitoring around disease specific foci (heart disease, cancer, maternal/child health,

etc.), and a first attempt at producing a total-cost-of-care (TCOC) global budget for Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial coverage to monitor at least 75 percent of total statewide health spending as compared with general inflation and population health status. Develop data interoperability reporting and improvement plan to assure collection of clinical data from missing sources including rural and small practices/clinics, and critical access hospitals. Achieve voluntary submission of missing commercial insurance data from the 250,000 persons not covered by the existing legislative mandates to SHPDA.

- 2027: Phase out consultant services in 2027, with staff capability assuming health care oversight responsibilities. Reporting to accurate data-sharing on performance factors for hospitals, physicians and other clinicians, and on long-term care to motivate quality improvement and cost-effectiveness. Achieve close to 100% of data reporting from missing sources and produce a TCOC global budget for 100% of delivery system for tracking affordability of health and long-term care.
- 2028: Evaluate and improve the entire health data collection, data analytics, and monitoring of access, quality, equity, and cost-effectiveness processes for the future.

5. The Agency's top budgetary priority for the Biennium:

- Obtain the funding and staffing in 2024 (7 staff, consultants, \$1.93 M) as described previously.
- SHPDA Modernization:
 - Digitalize the 49 years of SHPDA CON 100% paper data for easier public access, and implement digital CON processes for the future.
 - Clear out several rooms full of filing cabinets and old equipment from 49 previous years to make room for new staff and streamlined operations. Build out the office to accommodate 7 new staff.
 - Bring on a 1-year consultant to update the Statewide Health Facilities and Services Plan in late 2024, to be published in early 2025. Future updates will be performed with newly acquired staff, who most likely won't be realistically on board until early 2025 if funded in July, 2024.
 - Recruit consultants needed to kick-start the actuarial, data analytics, and data reporting processes needed for health and long-term care

oversight activities from 2024 to mid 2027; and to train new staff to independently manage these responsibilities by 2027; and

- Recruit and hire the seven new staff required.

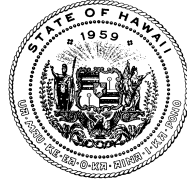
6. Assessment of Agency's staff morale and turnover rate:

- Staff morale is excellent. The group works as a team. Speaking for myself, I enjoy getting up and coming to work every day.
- Turnover is minimal. One vacant position following a recent employee relocation is being rapidly filled. Only one position (with a long commute) teleworks one day per week. People want to be in the office working together. One staff has worked for DOH/SHPDA for 40 years and will retire soon. One has been a SHPDA for 21 years but will be here years more. The others are also long-term state employees.

7. Foreseeable conflicts of interest:

- None I can report. I have no family or relatives working in health care in Hawai'i. Nor do SHPDA team staff members.
- We will follow standard state policy on contracting and conflicts.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM607
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN (JACK) LEWIN, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

SEN. JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 1, 2024

Room Number: 225

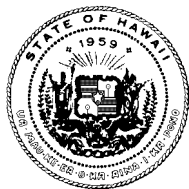
1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the nomination of
2 Mr. John Lewin, MD for Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency
3 (SHPDA).

4 Dr. Lewin is a familiar face to many Hawaii residents, having served two terms as the Director
5 of the Department of Health, during which time Hawaii was recognized as the “Health State” for
6 the high quality of healthcare, access to insurance, and some of the longest life spans and quality
7 of life years in the country.

8 As SHPDA Administrator, Hawaii stands to benefit greatly from his professional experience
9 after leaving the state, including significant publications and contributions to the literature,
10 federal health policy leadership, professional advocacy, medical research and quality
11 improvement, health information technology, and market-based innovation. Furthermore, his
12 deep knowledge of Hawaii’s culture, as well as of the local healthcare space at many levels –
13 physician, clinic, hospital, government, and public health – will invigorate SHPDA’s leadership
14 to assure an affordable, accessible, and high quality public health and healthcare system for
15 future generations.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Dr. Lewin.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

February 28, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director
Judy Mohr Peterson, Administrator, Med-QUEST Division

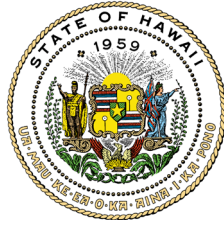
SUBJECT: **GM 607 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Administrator, State Health Planning and Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN (JACK) LEWIN, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

Hearing: Friday, March 1, 2024, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconferencing, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of John "Jack" Lewin as Administrator of the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA).

PURPOSE: The purpose of SHPDA is to "promote accessibility for all the people of the State to quality health care services at reasonable cost." Dr. Lewin is well positioned to lead SHPDA in developing a state health system reform plan and implementation strategy to accomplish the Agency's goals of equitable access, improved quality of care, improved patient and population outcomes, equity, and sustainable and affordable health care costs. His long career in medicine and health policy in Hawaii and nationally, qualify him to lead SHPDA. DHS's Med-QUEST Division, as the State's Medicaid agency, do, and will continue to, partner closely with Dr. Lewin, SHPDA, and other healthcare leaders to accomplish the laudable goals of access, better care, better health and sustainable costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nomination.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

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Testimony in SUPPORT of GM607
Consideration and Confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee JOHN (JACK) LEWIN

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR HENRY J.C. AQUINO, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Friday, March 1, 2024, 1:00 P.M., Conference Room 225

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH), is in **strong support** of the nomination of John (Jack) Lewin as the Administrator
- 3 for the State Health Planning & Development Agency, for a term to expire 12-7-26.
- 4 **Recommendation:** Dr. Lewin brings years of experience to this position and will elevate the
- 5 needs of the community through his work and dedication on very tough issues facing our state.
- 6 We hope you find in favor of his confirmation.
- 7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 1, 2024

The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: GM 607 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN (JACK) LEWIN, for a term to expire 12-07-2026

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of GM 607, the confirmation of John "Jack" Lewin as administrator for the State Health Planning & Development Agency (SHPDA). Dr. Lewin's experience in healthcare spans several decades across both the private and public sectors, always with a focus on expanding access to quality healthcare to those who need it most.

Dr. Lewin has served Hawaii as a private practice physician, consultant, and as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH). With the unique perspective serving our neighbor islands as a clinical physician, Dr. Lewin spent his time with the DOH addressing issues of workforce shortage, universal access, and supporting small businesses and self-employed persons to receive health care of the highest quality. Since leaving Hawaii, Dr. Lewin has continued to work across the country leveraging his expertise to find innovative solutions facing our healthcare system.

With a degree as a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Southern California, having served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, and time spent guiding numerous boards; Dr. Lewin has shown a subject matter expertise as well as an ability to bring stakeholders together and has the foundation needed to make him an excellent candidate for this nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 607. We appreciate your consideration of John "Jack" Lewin in his confirmation to serve as the Administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Diesman
Senior Vice President
Government Policy and Advocacy



820 Mililani Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96813
www.ohanahealthplan.com

March 1, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
The Honorable Vice Chair Henry J. C. Aquino
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: 'Ohana Health Plan
Rachel Wilkinson, Manager, Government Relations, Marketing &
Communications

Re: GM 607, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN (JACK) LEWIN, for a term to expire on 12-
07-2026; **In Support**

'Ohana Health Plan is pleased to offer our **support** of GM 607, the confirmation of John (Jack) Lewin MD FACC (hon) as the Administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency.

'Ohana Health Plan is a wholly owned subsidiary of Centene Corporation, a leading multi-national healthcare enterprise committed to helping people live healthier lives. Since 2008, 'Ohana Health Plan has provided government-sponsored managed care services to families—from keiki to kupuna—and individuals with complex medical needs primarily through QUEST Integration (Medicaid), Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans across the state.

Dr. Lewin has extensive expertise in medicine, public health, and health policy. He served the people of Hawaii in different capacities during his time in the islands, in addition to working in several states across the U.S. by leading foundations, medical associations, higher education institutions, and consulting firms. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the agency's purpose to promote accessibility for all the people of the State to quality health care services at reasonable cost.

With his experience in health innovations, along with his medical training, we believe Dr. Lewin has the qualifications, experience, and leadership to effectively lead SHPDA. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 607 and we respectfully urge your committee to support Dr. Lewin's confirmation.



To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Francoise Culley-Trotman, CEO
Gary Okamoto, MD, Chief Medical Officer
Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Friday, March 1, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 225

RE: **GM607 - Consideration and confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN (JACK) LEWIN, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of the confirmation of Jack Lewin, MD, as Administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency.**

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 40 percent of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare appreciates Dr. Lewin's commitment, vision, and leadership to work towards universal access, improved quality of care, better patient and population outcomes, health equity, and sustainable and affordable health care costs. We are pleased to have engaged with Dr. Lewin since his appointment as the SHPDA Administrator. Dr. Lewin brings with him extensive leadership of more than 15 years advancing health in the state of Hawai'i, previously serving as the Director of the Department of Health as well as his service at Kula Hospital, Kula Clinic, and Maui Memorial Hospital.

During his tenure as Hawai'i's Director of Health, he helped to establish some of the nation's most innovative clinical and public health programs, promoted the expansion of mental health and substance abuse treatment services to all insured persons, and assisted the effort to leverage the existing employer mandate toward near universal access to health care, including the State Health Insurance Program for coverage of uninsured persons and the QUEST Medicaid system.

Further, Dr. Lewin has served as CEO of the American College of Cardiology and the California Medical Association prior to that. He has demonstrated knowledge of health policy at the state and federal levels and experience as an administrator and leader. For these reasons, we think he is well qualified for this position.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of the confirmation of Jack Lewin, MD, as Administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency.**

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:47:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am delighted to submit testimony in support of GM 607 nominating Dr. John Lewin to be the SHPDA Administrator. I have had the pleasure of knowing Jack and working for him since the early 1990s. I began my career in Hawaii back then as a Senate staffer working for the Committee on Environmental Protection. I met him then as we crafted legislation within the purview of the Health Department. I was then hired by the Department and worked directly with Jack and then Deputy Director Bruce Anderson. I worked for the Department until 2003.

Jack was a dynamic, visionary leader then and remained so throughout his entire career which included a national platform. I was thrilled to see him return to Hawaii and believe he is the perfect person to help shape SHPDA to fulfill its important mission. I certainly look forward to working with him again and have no doubt that he will do a great job in his current position.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Friday, March 1, 2024; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 0607, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ADMINISTRATOR, STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOHN (JACK) LEWIN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Hirokawa and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association, 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** the confirmation of JOHN (JACK) LEWIN, as the Administrator, State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA), for a term to expire on December 7, 2026.

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 HPCA has long held that the social determinants of health – more than any other factor – contribute to the overall wellbeing of our people. Persons who experience homelessness, language barriers, and poverty are more likely to suffer persistent, chronic health issues, and have shorter life expectancies than those who do not.

We believe that Dr. Lewin's impeccable credentials, steadfast dedication and tireless commitment to furthering the health and wellbeing for all of Hawaii's communities make him uniquely qualified for the position of SHPDA Administrator. As demonstrated throughout his career, Dr. Lewin fully understands the importance of socio-economic equity in the pursuit of optimal health outcomes for all our citizens.

For these reasons, the HPCA urges your confirmation of the nomination of Dr. John (Jack) Lewin for the position of SHPDA Administrator.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 791-7830 or rhirokawa@hawaiiipca.net.

RE: Testimony in support of confirming John C. Lewin, MD as Administrator of SHPDA

To Chair Senator San Buenventura and Vice-Chair Senator Aquino

My name is Francis Chan and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Hawai'i Health Information Exchange (HHIE). HHIE is the entity designated by the State of Hawai'i to administer exchange Health Information among Health Insurance Companies, Hospitals, Physicians, Pharmacists and other healthcare providers to reduce cost and improve patient outcome.

HHIE supports the Governor's nomination of John C. Lewin, MD as Administrator of SHPDA.

While the State of Hawai'i has been ranked as among the top states in the country in terms of health care accessibility and outcome, based on the data that HHIE has been able to analyze, we have identified gaps in healthcare access and outcome among Native Hawai'ians and Pacific Islanders. For example, in Census Tracts where there are higher percentage of Native Hawai'ians and Pacific Islanders, their household income is lower, and children tend to be uninsured and rely on Emergency Rooms for primary care. More focused leadership and collaboration between the State and Providers are needed to address the disparities among the population.

Dr. Lewin has shown insight into how the situation can be improved. Coupled with the experience that he has, his knowledge about the local and national landscape, and the initiatives he has launched in the past few months to promote collaboration among the healthcare stakeholders, I believe that Dr. Lewin is the best candidate to serve as Administrator of a revitalized SHPDA. The agency under his leadership can continue the important work to bring about universal, quality healthcare to the citizens of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity for HHIE to provide testimony in support of confirming Dr. John C. Lewin as Administrator of SHPDA.

Respectfully submitted,



Francis Chan
Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Health Information Exchange
Email: fchan@hawaiihie.org
808-441-1431



Friday, March 1, 2024 at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
AVP, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
GM 607, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dr. John (Jack) Lewin

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing more than 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of Dr. Jack Lewin's nomination to serve as the Administrator of the Hawaii State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA). Dr. Lewin brings many years of public service to this role, including serving as the Director of the Department of Health between 1987 and 1994. Dr. Lewin's career has shown his deep interest in healthcare policy and the programs available to Hawaii residents.

We understand that there is substantial interest in revitalizing SHPDA and considering innovative ways to improve access to quality, equitable care. We have been deeply appreciate of the support from this legislature to increase Medicaid payments to providers, and to alleviate burdens on healthcare workers through forward-looking loan repayment program. We look forward to continuing our work with the executive and legislative branches to ensure that Hawaii continues to provide high-quality, efficient care to all residents.

Thank you for continued support of healthcare in the state, and for considering our testimony on Dr. Lewin's nomination.

March 1, 2024

To: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)

From: Hawaii Association of Health Plans Public Policy Committee

Date/Location: March 1, 2024; 1:00 p.m./Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony in support of GM607– Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, John (Jack) Lewin, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of GM607, the confirmation of physician leader and health care innovator Dr. Jack Lewin as the Administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency (SHPDA).

Dr. Lewin is an exceptional leader who has spent more than 15 years advancing health in the state of Hawaii – in his current role as the Administrator of SHPDA, previously as the State Director of Health for the Hawaii Department of Health, and as a Medical Director and Practicing Physician at Kula Hospital and Clinic. During his tenure as Hawaii’s State Director of Health, he oversaw more than 6,500 employees and led one of the nation's most aggressive and comprehensive programs to address HIV, HBV, and other public health challenges.

Dr. Lewin has also served as the CEO of the American College of Cardiology, the California Medical Association, and MEDePASS, a startup medical digital security and privacy company that he founded to serve physicians, clinicians, and patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM607. HAHP believes Dr. Lewin is well-qualified and we appreciate your consideration of his confirmation of as the Administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members



Hawaii Medical Association

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Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Date: March 1, 2024
From: Hawaii Medical Association
Beth England MD, Chair- HMA Public Policy Committee

RE: GM607, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN (JACK) LEWIN, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Position: Support

The Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) is pleased to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of John (Jack) Lewin, M.D., for confirmation to the position of Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency, as appointed by Governor Josh Green, M.D.

Dr. Lewin has an extensive resume and is highly qualified for this position, in which he has been serving since April of 2023. In this position he is responsible for “developing a state health system reform plan and implementation strategy to achieve universal access, improved quality of care, patient and population outcomes, equity, and sustainable and affordable health care costs.” He is an active member of the HMA.

His professional background includes having previously served as CEO of the American College of Cardiology (2006-2012), CEO of the California Medical Association (1995-2006), and Director of Health for the State of Hawaii (1987-1994), as well as various consulting positions.

HMA thinks Dr. Lewin is an excellent appointment and strongly supports his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your kind consideration of this appointment.

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Beth England, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



LATE

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Friday, March 1, 2024, at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

GM 607 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN (JACK) LEWIN, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Good afternoon, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Maria Garcia Anguiano and I serve as the Senior Director of State Government Affairs for Fresenius Medical Care. Liberty Dialysis Hawaii is a valued Affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care, and we are humbled to serve Hawaii's patients and their families.

Liberty Dialysis stands in **SUPPORT** of the confirmation of Dr. John (Jack) Lewin as Administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency.

The pandemic brought out the best in all of us as we teamed together to protect and care for each other. Sadly, it also brought to light weaknesses in our healthcare system worldwide, nationally, and here at home in Hawaii and everyone is still in various phases of recouping and putting in place lessons learned.

Key to our post pandemic era is the State Health Planning & Development Agency (SHPDA). It is at the core to bringing together Hawaii's healthcare providers and communities. SHPDA was established back in 1974 as the lead planning entity for Hawaii's healthcare "system" of public, private, and nonprofit providers. Dr. John (Jack) Lewin has the skillset, track record, and healthcare leadership background to get the Agency on a stronger path to accomplishing its mission. His resume shows he's headed the largest, state-based physician organization in the United States, was an advisor to the White House, he's been involved with innovative start up health care companies and served as a commissioned medical officer with the US Public Health Service for the Navajo Tribe in Arizona.

It is a pleasure to support the nomination of Dr. John (Jack) Lewin to serve as Administrator of SHPDA.

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 4:38:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine F Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the appointment of John (Jack) Lewin as Administrator of the State Health Planning and Development Agency. As the HONSAC Chair, I have had the pleasure of working with Jack over the past months and find him incredibly knowledgeable and forthcoming about the health issues that our great state is facing. Most importantly, he is deeply dedicated to improving the health of all the people of Hawaii and has a clear vision of how we can get there together.

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 6:37:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew J. Shim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support.

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:40:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support Dr. John (Jack) Lewin. We need his leadership in planning the future of healthcare services in Hawaii

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 8:57:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am pleased to SUPPORT Dr. Lewin's confirmation as the SHPDA Director. He has made important contributions to healthcare In Hawaii in years past as Director of Health and is poised to do more in this new role to provide equitable high quality healthcare for all.

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 9:04:57 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Giesting	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Beth Giesting

It is a pleasure to **support the nomination of Dr. Jack Lewin** to head of the State Health Planning and Development Agency. Health status, access to care, and cost for services are extremely important to every state resident and to our government. Hawaii was once on the cutting edge for policy shaping our health system, but, unfortunately, we are no longer leaders in this area. However, updating and adequately funding SHPDA can help restore our capacity to oversee health system issues, and appointing Dr. Lewin to head up the agency will add considerably to the goal. He is knowledgeable about health policy issues across the country and has broad experience here in Hawaii, in other states, and on the national stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Dr. Lewin

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 11:11:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Walker Shroder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I serve as the Vice Chair of the Tri-Isle Health Planning Subcommittee. Dr. Lewin has been attending the meetings and I find him to be very informative and helpful. He would be great for this position permanently.

Melvin M. Sakurai

Friday, February 23, 2024
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

FROM: Melvin Sakurai, PhD., Research Information Services
Member SHPDA Universal Access Advisory Council

RE: **Testimony relating to support of SB2285-SD1
Relating to the State Health Planning and Development Agency**

My name is Melvin Sakurai and I am a management consultant with healthcare policy planning experience working with the State Department of Health (SHPDA), Governor's Executive Office on Again, Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Health Care, Legislative Auditor, and the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation on projects ranging from developing a publicly funded long-term care financing system to the regulation of adult residential care homes and formulating a public-private partnership solution for acute hospital wait listed patients.

As a member of the SHPDA Universal Access Advisory Council we are actively engaged with addressing the critical need to modernize and reform Hawaii's health care system to substantially improve achieving elevated quality of care and outcomes, universal equitable access, and cost-effective affordability for all.

In support of enacting SB2285-SD1, I ask that the newly added Section 2(a)5 be further amended as follows:

(5) Develop an annual state global budget based on total costs of health care for all inpatient and outpatient hospital service providers to:

(A) Prevent costs from rising faster than general inflation; and

(B) Assure all purchasers of health care facility services including Medicare and Medicaid under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act waivers, Medicare Advantage, private health insurance plans, and other service purchasers that:

i. The total costs of all hospital services offered by or through a facility are reasonable such that all purchasers shall pay for services only as set forth herein;

ii. The aggregate rates of the facility are reasonably related to the aggregate costs of the facility; and

iii. Rates are set equitably among all purchasers of services without undue discrimination.

~~(B) Assure affordability of health care services; provided that t~~The plan shall be developed no later than 2025 and shall be updated annually thereafter; provided further that the plan shall be developed and updated in consultation with the governor, department of budget and finance, Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund, and all public and private health plans and providers of health insurance coverage.]

SB2285-SD1 offers a pivotal opportunity to move the health care reform narrative beyond resignation and lamenting glaring problems and deficits in having high quality accountable, affordable, equitable, and accessible health care for all in Hawaii to establishing the critical tools and authorities that would actually affect the kind of fundamental changes needed. The requested amendments help to reinforce and strengthen the Legislative resolve to accomplish such change.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this essential future-looking legislation.

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 5:51:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of the confirmation of Dr. Jack Lewin as Administrator of the State Health and Planning Development Agency,.

Dr. Lewin is well suited for this appointment as a former State Dept. of Health Director (1986 - 1994) and physician at Kula Hospital in the years prior. As DOH Director, he oversaw the Community/County Hospitals now known as the Hawai`i Health Systems Corporation. His tenure and practice in Hawai`i demonstrated a deep respect for Hawai`i's communities, cultures and the people we serve.

In subsequent positions, Dr. Lewin went on to expand his roles, knowledge and expertise regarding health care delivery and payment systems throughout the U.S. He developed a vast network of key federal officials and experts in the health care/health policy arena who have advised and implemented innovative models of health care system reform.

I was privileged to work with Dr. Lewin during his tenure as Hawaii's health director and saw firsthand the positive impacts and outcomes of his leadership.

Mahalo for considering these remarks.

Charlene Young

Testimony of Kathleen Ho, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Department of Health

In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 607

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning and Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, John (Jack) Lewin, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

SENATOR SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 1, 2024

Room Number: 225

I am writing in my individual capacity in support of the nomination and confirmation of John (Jack) Lewin to serve as Administrator, State Health Planning and Development Agency.

Jack has been serving as the Administrator since April, 2023. Jack's extensive medial, research and public policy experience make him the ideal choice in leading the State Health Planning and Development Agency. Jack's breadth of knowledge and experience will serve him well as the Administrator and I respectfully request Dr. Lewin's confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning and Development Agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 6:21:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Tsuji	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Dr. Jack Lewin as Administrator of the State Health Planning and Development Agency. Dr. Lewin is well qualified to lead this agency with his background in health policy, research, management and sustainable healthcare systems.

Testimony of Valerie M. Kato, Deputy Director of the Department of Health

In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 607

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Administrator,
State Health Planning & Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN (JACK) LEWIN,
for a term to expire at 12-07-2026.

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 1, 2024

Room Number: 225

I am writing in my individual capacity in strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Jack Lewin to serve as the Administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency (SHPDA).

Mr. Lewin has a long history of public service and was previously the Director of the Department of Health (DOH) for the State of Hawaii. His health care vision and drive to serve the people of Hawaii is an inspiration and I have enjoyed working with him over the past few months at DOH. He is a proven leader and I believe he will be an asset to SHPDA, DOH, and the State.

Therefore, I respectfully ask for Mr. Lewin's confirmation as the SHPDA Administrator. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 9:24:54 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Kim Morikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Debbie Kim Morikawa and I am submitting personal testimony in support of the nomination of Dr. John (Jack) Lewin to serve as Director of the State Health Planning and Development Agency.

Dr. Lewin brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in both health care and public health. He is also known for his innovative ideas and ability to engage and facilitate collaboration amongst stakeholders. SHPDA serves a critical role in bringing together our health care community and needs a strong leader who can ensure that the legislators' intent for when this landmark legislation was first established, and which is still valid today, continues to serve the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of this appointment.

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 11:40:09 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fred Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Jack Lewin for the position of Administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency.

Fred Shaw

Health Care Analyst

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 12:48:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wesley Sumida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the Health and Human Services Committee

My name is Wesley Sumida and I am the Chair of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC)'s Plan Development Committee (PDC) and a member of the Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council (HONSAC). I appreciate the opportunity to offer my **strong support** for Dr. John C. (Jack) Lewin as Administrator for the State Health Planning and Development Agency. I believe he would serve the people in the State of Hawaii well in this capacity.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Wesley Sumida

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Hawaii State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Marilyn A. Matsunaga

DATE: Friday, March 1, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

RE: **GM607** Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency, Gubernatorial Nominee, John (Jack) Lewin, for a term to expire 12-07-2026

Good afternoon, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Marilyn Matsunaga and I am testifying in **STRONGEST SUPPORT** of confirming Jack Lewin as Administrator of the State Health Planning and Development Agency.

Jack was Hawaii's State Director of Health during the late 1980's and early 1990's and I was thrilled to work in his Director's Office as Special Assistant to the Deputy Director for Hospitals and serve as a staff member on Director Lewin's initiatives. He was thoughtful and generous in mentoring and developing the junior members of his team and it was a true honor for me to learn so much about public healthcare policy from working with him. During those years, healthcare reform and expanding healthcare insurance access was one of our nation's top priorities and Jack emerged as one of the nation's policy leaders on this issue. In fact, he was a member of the Clinton White House policy groups looking at how to improve access to healthcare insurance nationwide. For Hawaii, he helped to establish the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to extend coverage to our "gap" group. It was a dynamic era for healthcare innovation and Jack's leadership style, forward-thinking, charisma, and energy put Hawaii on top of the national radar as the nation's "Health State". He is much beloved as a leader, colleague, mentor, and friend to so many.

As his resume shows, Jack went on to serve in leadership positions with many notable healthcare organizations across the country from California to Washington, DC and most recently New York City. His accomplishments shine brightly across our nation!

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of Dr. John (Jack) Lewin's nomination and confirmation to serve as State Administrator of the Hawaii State Health Planning & Development Agency.

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 3:53:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Tash	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. John (Jack) Lewin for the position of Administrator, State Health Planning & Development Agency. I have known and worked with Dr. Lewin for many years while I was the Manager of the Injury Prevention and Control Program (IPCP) in the Emergency Medical Services Branch of the State DOH (1990-2010). In that time, I have known Dr. Lewin to be a dedicated, brilliant, ethical, creative and innovative public health professional. He demonstrated leadership every time we prepared for and testified at the State Legislature, met with the community organizations and business groups on specific health concerns, and encouraged and supported community collaboration. Dr. Lewin has inspired myself, and many other State DOH professionals to do better, to reach for excellence, get things done and make a difference. In my capacity as Manager of IPCP, I always tried harder because Dr. Lewin always tried harder to have a positive impact on and improve the health and safety of the community.

In conclusion, Dr. Lewin would make an excellent Administrator of SHPDA. I strongly encourage the Committee on HHS to support the nomination of Dr. John (Jack) Lewin.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Eric Tash

LATE

GM-607

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 4:17:45 PM
Testimony for HHS on 3/1/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edeluisa Baguio-Larena	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hon. Ronald D. Kouchi, Senate President, and Members of the Senate,

I am respectfully submitting this testimony in support of Dr. John (Jack) Lewin as the Administrator for the State Health Planning & Development Agency (SHPDA). I am a current member of the Health Planning Council (HPC), Tri-Isle Subarea (Maui County) for the State of Hawaii, and I can attest to the efficient work of Dr. Lewin and the SHPDA staff in facilitating the various tasks of HPC and the subarea planning councils for each county. Dr. Lewin's extensive health care, public health, and public policy background is what SHPDA needs for its leadership.

Thank you for your time and consideration.