



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3122
RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH STANDING ORDERS.

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

Hearing Date: February 2, 2024

Room Number: 225

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

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports SB3122, which is
3 part of the Governor's Administrative Package.

4 DOH's goal is to encourage Hawaii's healthcare system to prioritize prevention by making
5 routine health screenings easier to access. Currently, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
6 [recommends many secondary prevention interventions](#), i.e. tests that are routinely recommended
7 to screen for certain conditions in asymptomatic populations, and for which the Affordable Care
8 Act (P.L. 111-148) requires no patient copay or cost-share for most insurance coverage.

9 Examples include screenings for:

- 10
- Breast cancer for women aged 50 – 75 years;
 - Lung cancer for adults 50 – 80 years with a history of smoking;
 - Aortic aneurysm in men aged 65 – 75 years who have ever smoked; and
 - Hepatitis C and HIV for most adults.
- 11
12
13

14 To access these screenings today, a patient must schedule an office visit with their provider to
15 receive an order, then schedule another appointment for the actual screening. SB3122 removes
16 the need for the first doctor visit and allows the patient to self-refer for the screening test, saving
17 time and money. Individuals with symptoms or diagnosed disease should receive care directly
18 from their provider. For example, this measure seeks to allow a woman who may have a full

1 time job, child care responsibilities, and perhaps transportation challenges to directly schedule
2 her screening mammogram. But a women who detected a lump would need to see her provider to
3 determine the appropriate diagnostic test.

4 This proposal requires good faith attempts to share results with the patient's provider, as well as
5 to the patient at an appropriate literacy level, similar to clinic visit summaries that have become
6 more prevalent.

7 The intent is to increase receipt of preventive care, advance population health, move routine care
8 that can be moved out of the exam room, and create more time for providers to address
9 individualized patient care.

10 DOH recognizes the need to engage further with healthcare community stakeholders prior to
11 beginning with the first and a single standing order, and that more discussions with stakeholders
12 are necessary. However, the downstream benefits of easier access to healthcare, the greatly
13 increased potential for catching illness such as cancer, an aneurysm, and various infections
14 sooner, and increasing patient activation and interest in their own health return significant value
15 in time, money, and avoidance of suffering.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



31 January 2024

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date/Time: 2 February 2024, 1:00 PM, CR 225 & Videoconference

Re: SB3122 RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH STANDING ORDERS

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members, thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB122, which authorizes the Director of Health to issue public health standing orders for patients to self-refer to certain healthcare screening services.

Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) SUPPORTS SB3122

HAPA is the Hawai'i state chapter of The American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Physicians Assistants (PAs) are state-licensed, nationally certified medical providers, who receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum. PA's play a critical role on care delivery teams, and along with their physician and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) counterparts, help ensure the delivery of high quality health care. Amidst a statewide physician shortage, PAs are successfully filling critical gaps in healthcare, and reducing health disparities by expanding access to care for communities in Hawai'i. PAs are found in every clinical setting and in every medical specialty and are authorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care providers (PCP) for their patients.

HAPA believes that preventive care is an essential component of healthcare total well-being. The well-documented physician shortage in Hawai'i has created challenges for accessing healthcare services, including preventative health screenings. Limited access to such screenings may result in poor health outcomes and increased healthcare costs when an underlying disease process is not detected in its early stage.

SB3122 will promote timely access to evidence-based preventive screenings identified as A or B recommendations by the US Preventive Services Task Force. Patient results will be sent



to a licensed healthcare provider who they identify, including a licensed physician, PA, or APRN.

HAPA strongly supports SB3122, which will help ensure access to preventive health screening services for patients eighteen years and older and ensures that Hawai'i remains on the forefront for supporting health promotion and disease prevention.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue that impacts the health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Denny, MSPA, PA-C
Leocadia P. Conlon, PhD, MPH, PA-C
Legislative Liaisons
Hawai'i Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA)



February 1, 2024

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Re: SUPPORT of SB3122 - Relating to RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH STANDING ORDERS

Hrg: February 2, 2024, 1:00 PM, Conference room 225

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

Physicians Assistants (PAs) are state-licensed, nationally certified medical providers, who receive rigorous medical training modeled on medical school curriculum. PA's play a critical role on care delivery teams, and along with their physician and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) counterparts, help ensure the delivery of high quality health care. Amidst a statewide physician shortage, PAs are successfully filling critical gaps in healthcare, and reducing health disparities by expanding access to care for communities in Hawai'i. PAs are found in every clinical setting and in every medical specialty and are authorized by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), along with physicians and APRNs, to serve as primary care providers (PCP) for their patients.

HAPA believes that preventive care is an essential component of healthcare total well-being. The well-documented physician shortage in Hawai'i has created challenges for accessing healthcare services, including preventative health screenings. Limited access to such screenings may result in poor health outcomes and increased healthcare costs when an underlying disease process is not detected in its early stage. SB3122 will promote timely access to evidence-based preventive screenings identified as A or B recommendations by the US Preventive Services Task Force.

HPHA strongly supports SB3122 and respectfully asks that you pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler
Executive Director

February 2, 2024

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

Re: SB 3122 – Relating to Public Health Standing Orders

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

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on SB 3122, which will Authorizes the Director of Health to issue public health standing orders for patients to self-refer to certain healthcare screening services.

We support the legislature’s intent to continue to help Hawaii’s residents have access to healthcare that meets their needs. It is no secret that Hawaii’s healthcare workforce is facing gaps that could impact our residents. Medical standing orders are written protocols that authorize certain healthcare team members to perform clinical tasks without a doctor's order. As described in SB 3122, the director of the department of health would be able to issue standing orders from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force’s (USPTF) listing of grade A & B recommendations for a duration of effect until repealed by the director. While there are operational details to be discussed and questions that need clarification, we think the intent warrants continued conversation.

Should the committee feel prudent to move this measure forward, we look forward to being able to continue the dialogue on standing orders to ensure it serves our community’s health care needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment on SB 3122.

Sincerely,



Dawn Kurisu
Assistant Vice President
Community and Government Relations

Friday, February 2, 2024; 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **Comments on SB 3122
Relating To Public Health Standing Orders**

My name is Michael Robinson and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write to provide comments on SB 3122 which authorizes the Director of Health to issue public health standing orders for patients to self-refer to certain healthcare screening services. HPH supports the intent of this measure, recognizing that in light of the current shortages of healthcare professionals at all levels, many patients face difficulties obtaining necessary diagnostic screening.

There are a number of operational and implementation challenges that should be considered before the program can become functioning, including the administrative burden on a state agency. Should this committee decide that a working group would be meaningful in examining this matter, HPH would be willing to be a part of the discussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-3122

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 8:56:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Melody Young	Testifying for CARES	Support	In Person

Comments:

CARES testifies in strong support.