



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2433**  
RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH STANDING ORDERS.

REP. DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: February 9, 2024

Room Number: 325

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

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports HB2433, which  
3 is 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;
- 11 • Lung cancer for adults 50 – 80 years with a history of smoking;
- 12 • Aortic aneurysm in men aged 65 – 75 years who have ever smoked; and
- 13 • Hepatitis C and HIV for most adults.

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. HB2433 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.



February 9, 2024

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair  
The Honorable Terez Amato, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

Re: HB 2433 – Relating to Public Health Standing Orders

Dear Chair Belatti, Chair Marten, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 2433, 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 HB 2433, 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 HB 2433.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu  
Assistant Vice President  
Community and Government Relations

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President  
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Friday, February 9, 2024, 8:30 AM, Conference Room 329

RE: **HB2433 Relating to Public Health Standing Orders**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support with comments** on **HB2433**. This measure provides the Director of the Department of Health the authority to issue public health standing orders authorizing patients who are 18 years or older to receive—without patient-specific orders from a licensed healthcare provider—evidence-based preventive care services recommended with a grade A or B by the United States Preventive Services Task Force.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 84,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 40 percent of our members 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 is committed to improving access to care and strengthening the Medicaid program. As you may know, Medicaid enrollment in our State has grown by over 46% from 327,000 enrollees in March 2020 to 476,000 in January 2024. This tremendous growth has put a further strain on our State's already challenged provider capacity. We support this measure as one way to increase timely access to evidence-based clinical preventive care and screenings, while also relieving some of the burden faced by our existing provider workforce.

In addition to the USPSTF recommendations, there are also other national organizations that issue evidence-based guidelines. However, the guidelines may vary slightly. For example, age ranges for testing or clinical parameters may differ, but the goal is the same evidence-based preventive services. *We ask that you consider broadening the organizations from which the DOH Director may issue evidence-based preventive services beyond USPSTF and include "other nationally recognized professional academies and specialty organizations," such as the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American College of Preventive Medicine.*

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support with comments** on **HB2433**.

**HB-2433**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:52:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/9/2024 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee members,

As a public health professional, I write in **UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT** of HB2433, which would authorize the Director of Health to issue public health standing orders for patients to self-refer to certain healthcare screening services.

Given the ongoing provider shortage in Hawai'i, it is important to mobilize all members of our health system to support community health. This bill would provide additional opportunities for people to receive recommended and evidence-based screening and medical services, which would improve health outcomes and alleviate the burden on local providers. The American Academy of Family Physicians notes that standing orders can increase efficiency and reduce physician workloads (<https://www.aafp.org/pubs/fpm/issues/2018/0500/p13.html>)

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration of this important bill, which could improve the health of Hawai'i at the community level.

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

Wednesday February 8, 2024

Written Testimony

**Health and Homelessness Committee**

To: Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair  
Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

From: Chelseamay Pupuhi, RN

Re: **Testimony is Support**  
**HB 2433-Relating to Public Health Standing Orders**

My name is Chelseamay Pupuhi, RN. I am a registered nurse residing on practicing on the island of Moloka'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 2433**, which would improve patient access to medical care for the rural and underserved island of Moloka'i. Being that the island is located in such a rural area that is already underserved, the residents of our island would benefit specifically from this measure as it will allow the public health nurses to take on a more direct role in providing the community with access to healthcare and health equity. This measure will allow for the residents of this community to access to care that they may otherwise not have access to. With the recent loss of two of or long-term providers, there has been a gap in the continuity of care for many residents. There is currently a severe shortage of consistent providers. The primary care clinics are limited to the amount of medical doctors or Advance Practice Registered Nurses that reside on island. The community is left with inconsistent care due to the high overturn rate of locumz practitioners. This has created a gap in care which this bill will surely aid in narrowing. Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony.