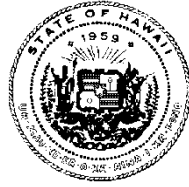


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

March 11, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [SB 3129 SD2](#) - RELATING TO HEALTH.

Hearing: March 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the bill and defers to the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) on implementation and resource needs.

**PURPOSE:** This measure establishes the Hui Ho'omana Task Force within the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality health care for state residents, including defining action plan items, setting timeline and deadline for each action item, and identifying resources required and funding options. This measure also requires reports to the Legislature and dissolves the Hui Ho'omana Task Force on 7/1/2025. Takes effect 12/31/2050. (SD2)

The Committee on Health and Human Services (SD1) amended the measure by:

- (1) Replacing the President of the Hawaii Nurses Association with the Executive Director of the Hawaii–American Nurses Association;
- (2) Changing the name of the American Association of Retired Persons to AARP Hawaii;

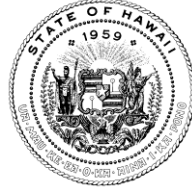
- (3) Requiring the task force to submit its final report to the Legislature before its dissolution date of July 1, 2025, rather than before the conclusion of the Regular Session of 2025;
- (4) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection (SD2) made additional amendments by:

- (1) Adding the Dean of the University of Hawaii Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing or the Dean's designee as a voting member of the Hui Ho'omana, thereby increasing the total number of the task force's voting members from twenty-five to twenty-six;
- (2) Replacing the Regional President of Kaiser Permanente Southern California and Hawaii Region or the Regional President's designee with one representative of the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospital, as a voting member of the Hui Ho'omana to be invited by the Administrator of the State Health Planning and Development Agency; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

DHS appreciates the Legislature's continued investment in and attention to universal access to high-quality health care. DHS will gladly participate as a member of the task force.

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



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**NADINE Y. ANDO**  
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA  
**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

**DEAN I. HAZAMA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA**  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. BOX 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850  
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the**  
**House Committee on Health and Homelessness**  
**Wednesday, March 13, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and via Video Conferencing**

**On the following measure:**  
**S.B. 3129, S.D. 2, RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gordon Ito, and I am the Insurance Commissioner for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Hui Ho'omana task force within the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality health care for state residents, including defining action plan items, setting timeline and deadline for each action item, and identifying resources required and funding options, require reports to the Legislature; and to dissolve the Hui Ho'omana Task Force on 7/1/2025.

The Department supports efforts to improve the quality and affordability of health care in order to bend the health care cost curve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Belatti and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: SB3129 SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH**

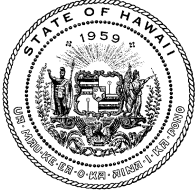
The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB3129 SD2**, which establishes the Hui Ho'omana Task Force within the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality health care for state residents, including defining action plan items, setting timeline and deadline for each action item, and identifying resources required and funding options. Requires reports to the Legislature. Dissolves the Hui Ho'omana Task Force on 7/1/2025. Takes effect 12/31/2050. (SD2)

The purpose of the State Health Planning & Development Agency (SHPDA) is to "promote accessibility for all the people of the State to quality health care services at reasonable cost." We support legislation to upgrade SHPDA's healthcare oversight capability. We defer to SHPDA for comments and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB3129 SD2**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



**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

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

**House Committee on Health and Homelessness**  
**Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair,**  
**Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair,**  
**and Members**

**S.B. 3129, S.D. 2 Relating to Health**

**Testimony of John C. (Jack) Lewin, M.D.**  
**SHPDA Administrator**

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.**

1 **Agency's Position: SUPPORT**

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of SB 3129, SD2 is to convene a highly  
4 representative, diverse, and committed group of leading consumer, provider, and government  
5 stakeholders to convene as the Hui Ho'omana Task Force to envision on behalf of Hawai'i's  
6 citizens the best path to a future of universal access to high-quality, equitable, and affordable  
7 health care for ALL.

8 The volunteer Task Force is directed to advise the State Health Planning and  
9 Development Agency (SHPDA), the Legislature, the Governor, and the people of Hawai'i of its  
10 findings and recommendations before completing its deliberations by December 31 of 2025.  
11 This kind of collaborative public planning effort has not been performed for longer than a  
12 decade to attempt to describe the most promising, culturally acceptable, and achievable future

1 of health care in Hawai'i, which must also include long-term care. Clarity in these regards is  
2 sorely needed.

3 The nation is adrift in terms of effectively addressing numerous problems in health care.  
4 These include how to deal with the gaps in access to care for millions of Americans, the  
5 unacceptable variation in quality of care from state to state and within states, glaring inequities  
6 in care for too many, a failure to effectively prevent disease and its progression, and an  
7 alarming rate of rising costs from an estimated national annual health care expenditure of 4.6  
8 trillion dollars in 2023 to an estimated seven trillion dollars annually by 2030.

9 Hawai'i has a tradition of national leadership in health system innovation and reform,  
10 dating from the Monarchy's provision of health care to waves of immigrant agricultural workers,  
11 to the passage of the one-and-only state employer mandate guaranteeing health care for  
12 workers and their families in the Prepaid Health Care Act. We also have an advanced Med-  
13 Quest program, and many other innovations, dedicated providers, and community volunteers.  
14 That said, Hawai'i faces daunting workforce shortages; unacceptable gaps in access to  
15 primary and specialty care, particularly in rural areas and neighbor islands; inequities among  
16 our Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and low-income kupuna and keiki populations;  
17 unnecessary administrative complexity; and rapidly rising costs. All of that must be addressed  
18 expeditiously.

19 While a short-term Task Force cannot be expected to solve all those problems, it can  
20 describe the current experience, thinking, priorities, and vision of both those charged with  
21 providing care here and those who receive it. This can inform our policy makers and suggest  
22 means to seek consensus around potential solutions that reflect the diverse communities and  
23 cultural values of our state.

1 To accelerate the deliberations of the Hui Ho’omana, SHPDA has already formed 4 new  
2 Advisory Councils that have been gathering information and expert, community-based, and  
3 neighbor island inputs around Keiki Care, Kupuna Care (and the future of long-term care),  
4 Health Data, and achieving Universal Access. The more than 50 diverse advisors of these  
5 councils formed in 2023 report to the Plan Development Committee of SHPDA’s Statewide  
6 Health Coordinating Council to organize background material around priorities they are  
7 identifying for the Task Force and the state to consider. Many national private sector, federal,  
8 and state health policy leaders have also expressed interest in offering virtual and in-kind  
9 assistance to the process if desired.

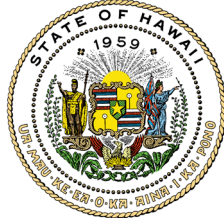
10 We believe the Hui Ho’omana Task Force will offer the Governor, the Legislature, state  
11 agencies, and Hawaii’s health sector valuable insights to accelerate our ability to realize the  
12 Governor’s “Hawai’i the Health State” vision, and so to become the first state to achieve  
13 universal access to high-quality, equitable, affordable health care for ALL.

14 We fully support S.D. 3129, S.D. 2 as amended, but would recommend two (2)  
15 additional amendments as follows:

16 1) In Section 2, subsection e: “The Hui Ho’omana shall submit a report of its findings  
17 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later  
18 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025, and a final  
19 report of its findings and recommendation, including any proposed legislation, to the  
20 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
21 2026.”

22 2) In Section 2, subsection f: “The Hui Ho’omana shall be dissolved on December 31,  
23 2025.”

24 Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.



**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  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**CAROLINE CADIRAO**  
DIRECTOR  
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone  
(808) 586-0100

Fax  
(808) 586-0185

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3129 SD2  
RELATING TO HEALTHCARE**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS  
REP. DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
REP. JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing: Wednesday, March 13, 9:00 A.M. Conference Room 329

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) supports this measure.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** Establishes the Hui Ho'omana task force within the State Health
- 5 Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) to identify actionable priorities and financial
- 6 resources to offer the State's residents universal access to affordable, high-quality healthcare
- 7 and health insurance. EOA as a non-voting member of this task force, supports this measure,
- 8 and defers to SHPDA for amendments.
- 9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

#### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, Interim Dean  
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Clementina Ceria-Ulep, Dean  
Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### SB 3129 SD2 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB 3129 SD2 which establishes the Hui Ho'omana task force to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality healthcare for state residents. The purpose of the task force would be to make recommendations to achieve universal access and equity to quality healthcare at an affordable cost for our residents.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted and made worse preexisting challenges for some populations to achieve good health, in part due to inconsistent access to healthcare. Disparities in infection rates, hospitalizations and death were noted throughout Hawai'i and experienced by certain ethnicities more than others. Despite many efforts guided by community leaders to help with outreach and education, many health disparities continue today. Increasing healthcare insurance costs, low reimbursement rates to providers, healthcare workforce shortages combined with growing unaffordability for families and businesses are among the myriad reasons for poor access to care. Despite many efforts and partnerships among those in the health care sector and community leaders, coordinated efforts are needed to provide seamless access to care for all of Hawai'i's people, across community-based settings to clinics to inpatient, long-term, and home-based care settings.

The Hui Ho'omana task force would be an effective mechanism to outline processes and procedures that would move the state in the direction of achieving universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality healthcare. The John A. Burns School of Medicine and the Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing appreciate and welcome the opportunity to participate in the task force. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Testimony of  
Jonathan Ching  
Government Relations Director

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

March 13, 2024  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference

**Re: SB 3129, SD2 Relating to Health.**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 3129, SD2, which establishes the Hui Ho‘omana task force within the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality healthcare for state residents, including defining action plan items, setting timeline and deadline for each action item, and identifying resources required and funding options.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i provides the following COMMENTS on SB 3129, SD2.**

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i is one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 274,000 members in Hawai‘i. In Hawai‘i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai‘i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i has more than 19 medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

The State of Hawai‘i has been a pioneer among the states in healthcare for decades. Notably, the Legislature’s passage of the Hawai‘i Prepaid Health Act (PHCA) in 1974 was the first in the nation to set minimum standards of healthcare coverage for workers. Under the PHCA, Hawaii has long boasted low uninsured rates. With the enactment of the ACA in 2010, many more residents obtained affordable health insurance. As part of one of the nation’s largest nonprofit integrated health care systems, Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i seeks to make healthcare more affordable and available to everyone.



## Government Relations

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i appreciates the opportunity to be included in the Hui Ho'omana task force and looks forward to continuing discussions on how we can ensure universal access and equity to quality healthcare at an affordable cost for state residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Wednesday, March 13, 2024; 9:00 am  
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

**House Committee on Health & Homelessness**

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

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

Re: **Comments on SB 3129, SD2  
Relating To Health**

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My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. 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 3129, SD2** that establishes the Hui Ho'omana task force to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality healthcare for state residents. The purpose of the task force is to make recommendations to achieve universal access and equity to quality healthcare at an affordable cost for our residents.

When compared to other states, Hawai'i has an exceptional healthcare system that provides low-cost quality care and high rates of insurance coverage. However, HPH recognizes the existence of challenges to access to care for portions of our population who live in rural communities and due to social inequities for the underserved groups.

HPH has been working with SHPDA on similar issues related to access to healthcare through the Universal Access Advisory Council and is also a member of the Data Advisory Council, a subcommittee of the Universal Access Advisory Council. We are happy to have been invited and appreciate the opportunity to be a member of the Hui Ho'omana task force. We look forward to addressing the issues that would make Hawai'i's healthcare system stronger.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 13, 2024

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

Re: SB 3129 SD2 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3129 SD2, which will establish a task force known as Hui Ho'omana placed within and convened by the State Health Planning and Development Agency to make recommendations to achieve universal access and equity to quality healthcare at an affordable cost for state residents.

HMSA is supportive of the legislature's proactive approach to addressing access to healthcare that is equitable and affordable while maintaining the highest quality. We are appreciative of the opportunity to serve as a member of this working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu  
Assistant Vice President  
Community and Government Relations



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: March 13, 2024

Re: Comments SB3129 SD2 – Relating to Health

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The Queen's Health System (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 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff 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 comments on SB3129 SD2, establishing the Hui Ho'omano task force within the SHPDA (DOH) to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to healthcare for residents of Hawaii.

Hawai'i has been a leader in providing residents quality healthcare due in large part to the Prepaid Healthcare Act of 1974. While by no means perfect, our state remains one of the archetypes for providing broad healthcare services across a diverse social and cultural landscape. As evolving technology and new challenges to access confront our state, this task force presents an opportunity to have key public and private stakeholders align key strategies to confront ongoing and future barriers to access.

We appreciate the proposed goals of the task force and see them being aligned with The Queen's Health System's mission 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;" should this measure pass we welcome the opportunity to be a named member of this team.

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



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: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329

RE: **SB3129 SD2 Relating to Health**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB3129 SD2**. This measure establishes the Hui Ho‘omana task force within the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high-quality health care for state residents, including defining action plan items, setting timeline and deadline for each action item, and identifying resources required and funding options; requires reports to the Legislature; and dissolves the task force on July 1, 2025.

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 supports and appreciates the leadership and attention from the Governor’s administration and Legislature on the need for universal and equitable access to quality health care at an affordable cost for state residents. We appreciate the intent to establish the Hui Ho‘omana task force to make recommendations toward these goals. And as one stakeholder among many across the health care delivery system, we appreciate the inclusion of AlohaCare as part of the hui.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of SB3129 SD2**.



Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 9:00 am  
Conference Room 329

**House Committee on Health and Homelessness**

To: Chair Della Au Belatti  
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

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

Re: **Submitting Comments**  
**SB 3129 SD 2, Relating to Health**

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 over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **comments** on this measure, which seeks to establish a task force known as the hui ho`omana to achieve universal access to quality, equitable care at an affordable cost for the state of Hawaii. Our members note that another vehicle, SB 2285, is also being considered by this committee, and that we did request amendments to require the completion of a study related to topics discussed in this measure.

Hawaii has long been a leader in visionary healthcare policy making. As noted in the findings of this measure, we are marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the *Prepaid Health Healthcare Act*, a landmark law that has made access to affordable care a reality for most residents in the state. We have also, for many years, had the distinction of holding one of the lowest uninsured rates in the nation. By many measures, Hawaii is one of the healthiest states in the country, with high quality care delivered at much lower costs.

We appreciate the opportunity to be included in any discussions on the future of healthcare in the state, especially as it relates to how we can best support providers and ensure continued access to care for all residents. Thank you for the opportunity for us to comment on this measure, and for your continued focus on building a sustainable healthcare system.





**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Committee On Health & Homelessness**

**Wednesday March 13, 2024, 9am  
Conference Room 329 State Capitol and Via Video Conference**

**SB 3129, SD2 RELATING TO HEALTH, SHPDA; HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE; HI  
HO'OMANA - IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee, we appreciate you hearing this measure which will establish the Hui Ho'omana task force. The Hui Ho'omana task force will be convened by the State Health Planning Department and Development Agency within the Department of Health and will identify actionable priorities and financial resources to develop a plan to offer universal and equitable access to affordable high-quality healthcare to our state's residents. This plan will include defining action items, setting timelines and deadlines for each action item and identifying resources required, funding options and reports to the legislature.

Hawai'i - American Nurses Association (Hawai'i - ANA) commends the legislature for the inclusion of our association in SD2 amendments to work alongside a wide array of experts in state government, healthcare administration, insurance and the public. Hawai'i - ANA represents over 16,000 nurses across the state and we advocate daily for the improvement of the healthcare systems where we live and work. As patient advocates we are poised and ready to support efforts and make recommendations to achieve universal access and equity to quality health care at an affordable cost for state residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important initiative to improve quality healthcare coverage for all Hawai'i citizens.

**Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association:**

**President: Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch, DNP, CCHN, FAAN, [president@hawaii-ana.org](mailto:president@hawaii-ana.org)**

**Executive Director: Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN, [executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org](mailto:executivedirector@hawaii-ana.org)**

500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu HI 96825. (808) 779- 3001



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024; 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 3129, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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. 3129, Senate Draft 2, RELATING TO HEALTH.

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.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would establish the Hui Hoomana Task Force (Task Force) within the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) to make recommendations that further the goal of state residents achieving universal access and equity to quality healthcare at an affordable cost. Further, this bill would direct SHPDA to invite, among others, the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association or designee to participate in the Task Force.

This bill would take effect on December 31, 2050.

The HPCA has had preliminary discussions with the SHPDA Administrator and strongly supports this effort. We note that the State has a unique opportunity to utilize the vast experience that Dr. John (Jack) Lewin possesses to further many of the objectives that he spearheaded years ago when he devised the MedQUEST Program under the Waihee Administration. This concept later served as the basis for the federal Affordable Care Act, which is in existence today.

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).



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**The State Legislature**  
**House Committee on Health and Homelessness**  
**Wednesday, March 13, 2024**  
**Conference Room 329, 9:00 a.m.**

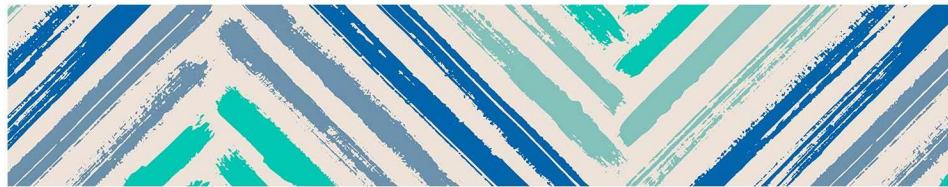
TO: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii  
**RE: Support for S.B. 3129, SD2- Relating to Health**

Aloha Chair Belatti, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez, and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii.

**AARP Hawai'i supports S.B. 3129, SD2 which establishes a task force known as "hui ho'omana" be convened by the state health planning and development agency which will make recommendations to achieve universal access and equity to quality health care at affordable cost for state residents. AARP Hawai'i is honored to serve as one of the twenty-five voting task force members and help craft a comprehensive plan to provide universal access to equitable and affordable high quality health care for all state residents.**

Having access to quality, timely healthcare services and a robust healthcare workforce is critical to keeping all Hawai'i residents healthy and well. While there are approximately 279,000 Medicare beneficiaries in the Hawai'i, there are still many residents under age 65 who may be at risk of becoming uninsured should they quit their jobs prematurely to become family caregivers, become seriously ill or lose their jobs for other reasons which result in the loss of their health benefits. This is one example of the different gap groups that would benefit if Hawaii can improve its health care coverage for all. AARP appreciates these efforts to increase equal access to quality and affordable health especially for kūpuna and their caregivers, residents in rural areas and others with limited income and health care coverage . Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support **S.B. 3129 SD2.**



March 13, 2024

**To: Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness**

From: The Hawaii Association of Health Plans Public Policy Committee

Date/Location: March 13, 2024; 9:00 a.m./Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony in support with comments for SB 3129 SD2 – Relating to Health.**

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) respectfully supports SB 3129 SD2. HAHP is a statewide partnership that unifies Hawaii’s health plans to improve the health of Hawaii’s communities together. A majority of Hawaii residents receive their health coverage through a plan associated with one of our organizations.

HAHP supports efforts to create a task force of leaders from state government and Hawaii’s healthcare sector who will work collaboratively towards a goal of assuring affordable, high-quality, healthcare services in Hawaii. Furthermore, we believe that working together and coordinating our efforts is essential to identifying and prioritizing the actions needed to secure private, state, and federal funds to further these goals.

We respectfully request that a representative from the Hawaii Association of Health Plans be added to the workgroup. On page 4-5 in the section reading:

*“The administrator of the state health planning and development agency shall invite the following individuals or their designees to participate on the hui hoomana as voting members:...”,*

We would like to request that the following be added to the list of members:

“The president of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans or their designee;”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 3129 SD2.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members

AlohaCare | HMAA | HMSA | Humana | HWMG | Kaiser Permanente | MDX Hawaii | Ohana Health Plan | UHA Health Insurance | UnitedHealthcare

[hahp.org](http://hahp.org) | [info@hahp.org](mailto:info@hahp.org)



## Hawaii Medical Association

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### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Date: March 13, 2024  
From: Hawaii Medical Association  
Beth England MD, Chair- HMA Public Policy Committee

### **RE: SB 3129 SD2, RELATING TO HEALTH Position: Support**

The Hawaii Medical Association appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT OF SB2605 SD2**. Universal access to healthcare is positively correlated with not only with increased life expectancy, but also with increased healthy life expectancy<sup>1</sup>, (defined by the World Health Organization as “Average number of years that a person can expect to live in “full health” by taking into account years lived in less than full health due to disease and/or injury”<sup>2</sup>). Furthermore, increased out-of-pocket healthcare costs are negatively associated with life expectancy<sup>3</sup>. Thus, creating a task-force focused on achieving affordable but universal healthcare access is a step towards improving both the quality of life and health of our state.

All citizens of Hawaii deserve the opportunity to benefit from access to affordable, high-quality health care. Thank you for allowing the HMA to testify in support of this measure.

#### References

1. Ranabhat CL, Atkinson J, Park MB, Kim CB, Jakovljevic M. The Influence of Universal Health Coverage on Life Expectancy at Birth (LEAB) and Healthy Life Expectancy (HALE): A Multi-Country Cross-Sectional Study. *Front Pharmacol*. 2018 Sep 18;9:960. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2018.00960. PMID: 30279657; PMCID: PMC6153391.
2. World Health Organization. (n.d.). Indicator metadata registry details. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/66>
3. OECD. Universal Health coverage and Health Outcomes 2016. Paris. Retrieved from <https://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/Universal-Health-Coverage-and-Health-Outcomes-OECD-G7-Health-Ministerial-2016.pdf>

#### 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



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**House Committee on Health and Homelessness**

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference**

**RE: SB 3129 SD 2 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Position: COMMENT**

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs,

Papa Ola Lokahi provides **comment** on SB 3129 SD 2, which establishes an advisory to be named “Hui Ho‘omana” that would inform the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA). Papa Ola Lokahi stands in the current bill language to be a voting member of “Hui Ho‘omana.”

The work of SHPDA and function of the proposed “Hui Ho‘omana” does not, to our knowledge, conflict with any of Papa Ola Lokahi’s federal mandates, mission, or administrative agreements. Thus we assert that Papa Ola Lokahi is able to participate as delineated in SB 3129, which we will confirm if the legislation passes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **COMMENT** on this legislation.

*Papa Ola Lōkahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, authorized by the federal Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act, is charged with raising the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level, which we achieve through strategic partnerships, programs, and public policy.*