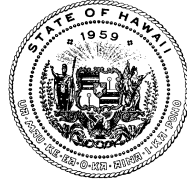


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



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

LATE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3143
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH.**

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

Hearing Date: January 29, 2024

Room Number: 225

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$5,000,000 general fund appropriation.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) main office at Kinau Hale in
- 3 downtown Honolulu (1250 Punchbowl Street) is in a dilapidated condition that contributes to
- 4 increasingly frequent disturbances of asbestos in the ceiling and floor of the building. Although
- 5 multiple ambient air testing confirms that the air in the building is currently safe, a major
- 6 incident such as heavy rains causing massive roof leaks may significantly elevate risk.
- 7 Some staff have been permitted to temporarily relocate and emergency funding is needed in the
- 8 event that DOH must significantly relocate staff and equipment due to asbestos disturbance or
- 9 other catastrophic building failure requiring immediate evacuation and significant remediation.
- 10 Funds are also requested to begin preliminary planning for redevelopment of the parcel on which
- 11 Kinau Hale is built and to make temporary repairs and take mitigative steps to keep Kinau Hale
- 12 safe for employees during the interim period.
- 13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.