



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1112  
RELATING TO VIRAL HEPATITIS**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 7, 2025 @ 8:45 am

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests that this measure be  
2 considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the  
3 priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request.

4 **Department Position:** The Department SUPPORTS this measure and offers comments.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing Division  
6 (CDPHND) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department. CDPHND supports  
7 HB1112, which would establish a hepatitis prevention program and positions to address the  
8 burden of viral hepatitis on Hawai'i.

9 **Preventable Infections and Deaths in Hawai'i**

10 Viral hepatitis infections can lead to preventable liver cancer and premature death. From 2000-  
11 2020, hepatitis B mortality rates were consistently higher in Hawai'i compared to the US,  
12 reaching three times as many deaths in 2019. Most of these deaths were among Asian and  
13 Pacific Islander residents. For the same period, most hepatitis C-related deaths in Hawai'i  
14 occurred earlier than that rest of the state: 88% did not reach age 75, and 40% died before  
15 retirement age at 65.

16 **Opportunities to Intervene Exist**

1 Hepatitis B and C can be eliminated in Hawai'i through existing interventions: universal  
2 hepatitis screening and immunization; culturally-based care coordination; and safe, effective  
3 treatments, including a cure for hepatitis C. Most residents can get these services covered by  
4 insurance, so this measure will support efforts to leverage insurance-paid services. With only 2  
5 Federally-funded positions and no dedicated program funds, CDPHND has focused on coalition-  
6 building (via Hep Free Hawai'i) to coordinate a statewide hepatitis elimination strategy ("Hep  
7 Free 2030") since 2011. Successes include hepatitis C treatment in local jails and prisons as well  
8 as electronic medical record integration in Neighbor Island health centers. This progress points  
9 to the impact that an adequately funded and staffed hepatitis prevention program could have.  
10 However, threats to federal public health funding endanger the existing hepatitis elimination  
11 efforts in the Department, potentially leaving Hawaii without resources to prevent, treat and  
12 eliminate viral hepatitis.

13 **Sufficient Infrastructure Needed**

14 CDPHND is seeking positions to scale up the State's response to preventable, treatable, but life-  
15 threatening hepatitis. The requested positions include:

- 16 • Section Supervisor (1 F.T.E. Program Specialist V): Provide overall coordination of  
17 section activities as well as strategic planning and partnership development;
- 18 • Intervention Specialist/Case Investigator (1 F.T.E. Epidemiological Specialist IV): Conduct  
19 disease surveillance and investigation activities to effectively allocate resources;
- 20 • Office Assistant (1 F.T.E. Office Assistant III): Provide administrative support.

21 CDPHND estimates that \$545,000 in annual program funds would be sufficient to support  
22 targeted community-based hepatitis testing, immunizations, care coordination, and treatment.  
23 If unfunded, the State will not be able to effectively curtail high rates of hepatitis mortality and  
24 related costs to the workforce, despite the availability of known interventions.

25 **Offered Amendments:** None.

26 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:51:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Ruddick	Hep Free Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Takayama , Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and members of the committee

We **support HB1112**. This bill aligns with [Hep Free 2030](#), the statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis, as developed by the Hep Free Hawai‘i (HFH) coalition and the Hawai‘i Department of Health (HDOH). *Hep Free 2030* aims to eliminate viral hepatitis in Hawai‘i by 2030 through key partnerships and culturally appropriate services and policies. We know we can eliminate hepatitis in Hawai‘i because viral hepatitis is both preventable and treatable; models and interventions already exist and are being deployed locally.

The lack of public health resources dedicated to viral hepatitis has contributed to higher death rates in the state, especially for vulnerable communities such as Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents.

- Two of the leading causes of liver cancer in Hawai‘i are hepatitis B and C, which can also lead to premature deaths.
- Per HDOH, annual liver cancer death rates in Hawai‘i were higher than the national average from 2000 to 2020
- Per HDOH, most state residents with hepatitis C (88%) died earlier than the rest of state.

Given this impact on Hawaii, we support this bill to establish and fund a formal hepatitis program in HDOH. This would ensure that necessary and effective services—including surveillance, vaccination, screening, treatment—can be provided to affected communities with sufficient HDOH staffing and infrastructure.

Undiagnosed and untreated viral hepatitis increases the costs to private and public systems of care each year. This bill provides a modest investment to make significant impact on a preventable, treatable health issue. Please pass this bill to help save local lives!





**To: Committee on Health**

**Hearing Date/Time: Friday February 7th, 845 AM**

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1112**

**Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Loy and Members of the Committee**

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports HB 237** which establishes and appropriates funds for a hepatitis prevention program within the state Department of Health to “address preventable morbidity and mortality from viral hepatitis” among this state’s residents. These positions will strengthen current efforts to collect needed data and to pursue strategies that broaden access to screening, prevention, and care services.

Over the past decade, HHRC has worked with Hep Free Hawai‘i and over 200 community partners in recent years on a strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis A, B, and C on a statewide basis. “[Hep Free 2030](#)” identifies five priorities to eliminate hepatitis in Hawai‘i: awareness and education, access to services, advocacy at all levels, equity in everything, and data for decision making. It also articulates four core values: harm reduction, social justice, intersectionality, and aloha.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) broadly recommends vaccination for hepatitis B and that all adults over 18 get tested for hepatitis B and C at least once. In 2020 the CDC declared viral hepatitis a “[winnable battle](#),” making it a national public health priority where significant progress can be made in a relatively short timeframe.

HHRC’s mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:12:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Yaris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I **support HB1112**. This bill aligns with [Hep Free 2030](#), the statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis, as developed by the Hep Free Hawai‘i (HFH) coalition and the Hawai‘i Department of Health (HDOH). *Hep Free 2030* aims to eliminate viral hepatitis in Hawai‘i by 2030 through key partnerships and culturally appropriate services and policies. We know we can eliminate hepatitis in Hawai‘i because viral hepatitis is both preventable and treatable; models and interventions already exist and are being deployed locally.

The lack of public health resources dedicated to viral hepatitis has contributed to higher death rates in the state, especially for vulnerable communities such as Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents.

- Two of the leading causes of liver cancer in Hawai‘i are hepatitis B and C, which can also lead to premature deaths.
- Per HDOH, annual liver cancer death rates in Hawai‘i were higher than the national average from 2000 to 2020
- Per HDOH, most state residents with hepatitis C (88%) died earlier than the rest of state.

Given this impact on Hawaii, we support this bill to establish and fund a formal hepatitis program in HDOH. This would ensure that necessary and effective services—including surveillance, vaccination, screening, treatment—can be provided to affected communities with sufficient HDOH staffing and infrastructure.

Undiagnosed and untreated viral hepatitis increases the costs to private and public systems of care each year. This bill provides a modest investment to make significant impact on a preventable, treatable health issue. Please pass this bill to help save local lives!

Mahalo



**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:18:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myriam Saboui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I support HB1112.** Eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030 is a goal that has been established nationwide and statewide. Both preventative (vaccination and screening) as well as curative treatment (for Hepatitis C) make this goal an attainable reality. In Hawai‘i, Asian and Pacific Islander continue to be disproportionately affected by the long term effects of viral hepatitis including liver cancer and deaths. Over the past two decades (2000 to 2020), Hawai‘i , has consistently year after year reported the highest mortality rates due to liver cancer across all states in the country. Among people living with Hepatitis C, nearly half (40%) do not survive to the age of retirement in Hawai‘i (65 years). Resources invested in viral hepatitis not only offer immense savings in terms of lives lost, quality of life but are also highly cost-effective. Preventative measures such as vaccination for Hepatitis B prevent infection and all the complications associated with chronic infections such as cancer and mortality. In order to eliminate viral hepatitis in Hawai‘i, resources invested at HDOH are crucial to increase education, access to screening and to develop a high quality surveillance program that allows to mount the highest quality of evidence to inform program and policy planning.



**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:47:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose 1112 HB RELATING TO VIRAL HEPATITIS

Dear Honorable Committe members,

This bill does not have defined funds. Additionally pregnant mothers prior to birth are screened for Hep B in hospitals. This bill is redundant in that way. This particular area of health is not well spent funding especiall since there would be people hired particularly for this program. Excessive expenditure.

Thank you,

Dawn P.

Honolulu, HI 96813

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:05:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Chin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and members of the committee,

**I support HB1112.** This bill aligns with Hep Free 2030, the statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis, as developed by the Hep Free Hawai‘i (HFH) coalition and the Hawai‘i Department of Health (HDOH). Hep Free 2030 aims to eliminate viral hepatitis in Hawai‘i by 2030 through key partnerships and culturally appropriate services and policies. We know we can eliminate hepatitis in Hawai‘i because viral hepatitis is both preventable and treatable; models and interventions already exist and are being deployed locally.

The lack of public health resources dedicated to viral hepatitis has contributed to higher death rates in the state, especially for vulnerable communities such as Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents.

- Two of the leading causes of liver cancer in Hawai‘i are hepatitis B and C, which can also lead to premature deaths.
- Per HDOH, annual liver cancer death rates in Hawai‘i were higher than the national average from 2000 to 2020
- Per HDOH, most state residents with hepatitis C (88%) died earlier than the rest of state.

Given this impact on Hawai‘i, we support this bill to establish and fund a formal hepatitis program in HDOH. This would ensure that necessary and effective services—including surveillance, vaccination, screening, treatment—can be provided to affected communities with sufficient HDOH staffing and infrastructure.

Undiagnosed and untreated viral hepatitis increases the costs to private and public systems of care each year. This bill provides a modest investment to make significant impact on a preventable, treatable health issue. Please pass this bill to help save local lives!

-Bryan Chin, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Wailuku, Hawai‘i 96793

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:30:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cindy Nawilis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Loy and all other committee members,

I fully support the establishment and appropriation of funds for a hepatitis prevention program within the Department of Health to address preventable morbidity and mortality from viral hepatitis among Hawaii residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:11:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of this measure. Hawaii has among the highest rates of death from liver cancer in the nation, with hepatitis among the top causes of liver cancer overall.

A vaccine is currently available to help prevent hepatitis B, as is a curative treatment for hepatitis C. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have declared viral hepatitis as a "winnable battle," meaning that significant progress can be made on this urgent health issue in a relatively short period of time.

The state Department of Health and over 200 stakeholders in are working on an elimination strategy that provide immunization, screening, care services, and treatment.

The resources called for in this bill are vital in helping Hawaii make substantial progress in the "winnable battle" of viral hepatitis.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:06:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and members of the HLT committee,

As a public health professional in Hawai'i and as someone someone who lost a family member to hepatitis, **I write in unequivocal support of HB1112.** This bill provides a small investment in local health infrastructure, which will make significant impact on a preventable, treatable, and deadly disease. This bill can save lives!

Personally, I have experienced how lack of sufficient public health education and resources contributed to the death of my uncle from hepatitis B. By the time it was diagnosed, his liver was already failing. He passed quickly and in pain, leaving behind a wife and three daughters. This was completely avoidable.

The lack of public health resources dedicated to viral hepatitis has contributed to higher death rates in the state, especially for vulnerable communities such as Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents.

- Two of the leading causes of liver cancer in Hawai'i are hepatitis B and C, which can also lead to premature deaths.
- Annual liver cancer death rates in Hawai'i were higher than the national average from 2000 to 2020.
- Most Hawai'i residents with hepatitis C (88%) died earlier than the rest of state.

However, we know we can eliminate hepatitis in Hawai'i because viral hepatitis is both preventable and treatable. Models and interventions already exist and are being deployed locally by Hep Free Hawai'i coalition and its government and community partners. A more sustainable investment would ensure that this effective work continues.

Please pass this bill to help save local lives!

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

Makiki, HI



**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:47:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Bumgardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1112. This bill will help the Hep Free Hawai'i Coalition, of which I am a member, achieve our statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030. 2025 marks my 30th year serving my community in the profession of pharmacy. Hepatitis C is one of the few chronic medical conditions I have had the privilege of partnering with patients to CURE in my career. And it only takes a simple 8 or 12 week treatment. The problem is that, right now, only about one-third of patients currently diagnosed with Hepatitis C in our country currently achieve cure. This is often because patients don't know they have the condition or don't realize that there are new, highly effective treatment options available. Allocating resources to the Hawai'i Department of Health can help fund outreach efforts to raise awareness of this curable condition, fund testing and linkage-to-care services in our community, and provide resources to continue to increase the pool of providers offering treatment. Hepatitis B is a vaccine-preventable disease that could also benefit from additional resources for awareness and outreach. Both conditions accounted for 2 out of 3 liver cancer cases in Hawai'i in 2018, a condition for which Hawai'i has higher incidence and rates of deaths compared to other states.

I strongly encourage the committee to pass this bill to help save local lives

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:55:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gretchen Alther	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Takayama , Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and members of the committee

I **support HB1112**. This bill aligns with [Hep Free 2030](#), the statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis, as developed by the Hep Free Hawai‘i (HFH) coalition and the Hawai‘i Department of Health (HDOH). *Hep Free 2030* aims to eliminate viral hepatitis in Hawai‘i by 2030 through key partnerships and culturally appropriate services and policies. We know we can eliminate hepatitis in Hawai‘i because viral hepatitis is both preventable and treatable; models and interventions already exist and are being deployed locally.

The lack of public health resources dedicated to viral hepatitis has contributed to higher death rates in the state, especially for vulnerable communities such as Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents.

- Two of the leading causes of liver cancer in Hawai‘i are hepatitis B and C, which can also lead to premature deaths.
- Per HDOH, annual liver cancer death rates in Hawai‘i were higher than the national average from 2000 to 2020
- Per HDOH, most state residents with hepatitis C (88%) died earlier than the rest of state.

Given this impact on Hawaii, I support this bill to establish and fund a formal hepatitis program in HDOH. This would ensure that necessary and effective services—including surveillance, vaccination, screening, treatment—can be provided to affected communities with sufficient HDOH staffing and infrastructure.

Undiagnosed and untreated viral hepatitis increases the costs to private and public systems of care each year. This bill provides a modest investment to make significant impact on a preventable, treatable health issue. Please pass this bill to help save local lives!



**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:27:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anika Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a member of Hep Free Hawaii, a local coalition committed to eliminating viral hepatitis in the state by 2030. Through my involvement with this coalition, I have gained a deeper understanding of the statewide strategy, Hep Free 2030, and the critical importance of raising awareness and improving access to prevention and care for hepatitis.

My time with the coalition has also highlighted the serious impact of hepatitis in Hawaii. Viral hepatitis has contributed to an alarming increase in death rates, particularly among vulnerable communities, such as Asian Pacific Islanders. Hepatitis B and C are two of the leading causes of liver cancer in Hawaii, and, according to the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, liver cancer is the fourth leading cause of death in the state.

The coalition's ongoing efforts to eliminate hepatitis are driven by dedicated community partners and leaders. While Hep Free Hawaii has made significant strides in forming valuable partnerships across the state, more resources are still needed to strengthen this initiative. Given the severity of hepatitis' impact on Hawaii, I fully support the bill to establish and fund a formal hepatitis program within the Department of Health (HDOH). This would ensure that essential services—such as surveillance, vaccination, screening, and treatment—can be effectively provided to affected communities, supported by adequate staffing and infrastructure within HDOH.

Undiagnosed and untreated viral hepatitis places a growing financial burden on both private and public healthcare systems. This bill represents a modest investment that can make a significant impact in addressing this preventable and treatable health issue. Please support the passage of this bill to help save lives in our community.

Sincerely,  
Anika Shanelle Martin, MPH

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:44:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Griff Jurgens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and members of the committee,

Again, mahalo to you all for the work you do. Like a quarterback playing in the big game, the position you've been voted into and chosen to lead can receive a lot of glory in the wins, but also the blame when the outcome is not favorable. Thank you for serving your communities and the state of Hawaii.

I am in support of HB1112. As you know, the bill aligns with [Hep Free 2030](#)--a strategy aiming to eliminate viral hepatitis in Hawai'i by 2030 through key partnerships and culturally appropriate services and policies. I'm not an expert in this field, but a very close friend of mine does. He is confident that hepatitis in Hawai'i can be eliminated because it is both preventable and treatable.

Like many issues, the lack of resources dedicated to the virus has contributed to higher death rates in the state, especially for vulnerable communities such as Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents--this is the reason I am in full support of this bill.

- Two of the leading causes of liver cancer in Hawai'i are hepatitis B and C, which can also lead to premature deaths.
- Per HDOH, annual liver cancer death rates in Hawai'i were higher than the national average from 2000 to 2020
- Per HDOH, most state residents with hepatitis C (88%) died earlier than the rest of state.

This bill provides a modest investment to make significant impact on a preventable, treatable health issue. Please pass this bill to help save local lives.

Mahalo for your time.

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:30:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Christina MB Wang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Takayama , Vice Chair Keohokapu-Loy and members of the committee

I **support HB1112**. This bill aligns with [Hep Free 2030](#), the statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis, as developed by the Hep Free Hawai‘i (HFH) coalition and the Hawai‘i Department of Health (HDOH). *Hep Free 2030* aims to eliminate viral hepatitis in Hawai‘i by 2030 through key partnerships and culturally appropriate services and policies. We know we can eliminate hepatitis in Hawai‘i because viral hepatitis is both preventable and treatable; models and interventions already exist and are being deployed locally.

The lack of public health resources dedicated to viral hepatitis has contributed to higher death rates in the state, especially for vulnerable communities such as Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents.

- Two of the leading causes of liver cancer in Hawai‘i are hepatitis B and C, which can also lead to premature deaths.
- Per HDOH, annual liver cancer death rates in Hawai‘i were higher than the national average from 2000 to 2020
- Per HDOH, most state residents with hepatitis C (88%) died earlier than the rest of state.

Given this impact on Hawaii, we support this bill to establish and fund a formal hepatitis program in HDOH. This would ensure that necessary and effective services—including surveillance, vaccination, screening, treatment—can be provided to affected communities with sufficient HDOH staffing and infrastructure.

Undiagnosed and untreated viral hepatitis increases the costs to private and public systems of care each year. This bill provides a modest investment to make significant impact on a preventable, treatable health issue. Please pass this bill to help save local lives!



**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:58:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordann Kauhi-Deguilmo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Takayama , Vice Chair Keohokapu-Loy and members of the committee

I **support HB1112**. This bill aligns with [Hep Free 2030](#), the statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis, as developed by the Hep Free Hawai‘i (HFH) coalition and the Hawai‘i Department of Health (HDOH). *Hep Free 2030* aims to eliminate viral hepatitis in Hawai‘i by 2030 through key partnerships and culturally appropriate services and policies. We know we can eliminate hepatitis in Hawai‘i because viral hepatitis is both preventable and treatable; models and interventions already exist and are being deployed locally.

The lack of public health resources dedicated to viral hepatitis has contributed to higher death rates in the state, especially for vulnerable communities such as Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents.

- Two of the leading causes of liver cancer in Hawai‘i are hepatitis B and C, which can also lead to premature deaths.
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Given this impact on Hawaii, we support this bill to establish and fund a formal hepatitis program in HDOH. This would ensure that necessary and effective services—including surveillance, vaccination, screening, treatment—can be provided to affected communities with sufficient HDOH staffing and infrastructure.

Undiagnosed and untreated viral hepatitis increases the costs to private and public systems of care each year. This bill provides a modest investment to make significant impact on a preventable, treatable health issue. Please pass this bill to help save local lives!

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:34:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KYAW LWIN MAUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and members of the committee,

I support HB1112. This bill aligns with Hep Free 2030's statewide strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis. Viral hepatitis is both preventable and treatable but the lack of public health resources dedicated to viral hepatitis has contributed to higher death rates in the state especially for vulnerable communities such as Asian and Pacific Islander residents. Undiagnosed and untreated viral hepatitis increases the costs to private and public systems of health care each year. This bill provides a modest investment to significantly impact a preventable, treatable health issue. Please pass this bill to help save local lives!

**HB-1112**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:43:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiana Wilbur	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose HB1112, we shoudln't be funding vaccines and deem it good for our health, it should be a personal decision to make.