



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1481  
RELATING TO HUMAN REMAINS.**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Friday, January 30, 2026, Room 329

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

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure with  
3 amendments.

4 Existing rule-making authority is likely sufficient to achieve the proposed administrative  
5 simplification, therefor, requiring the promulgation of new Hawaii Administrative Rules as  
6 currently drafted will delay implementation.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

8 **Offered Amendments:**

9 Page 1, Lines 12 and 13

10 "(b) The department of health [~~shall~~] may adopt rules pursuant to  
11 chapter 91 necessary for the purposes of this section."



## Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association, Inc.

1330 Maunakea Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

### Written Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1481

#### RELATING TO HUMAN REMAINS

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

House Committee on Health  
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee-Joy, Vice Chair  
Committee Members

HEARING DATE/TIME: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 / 10:30am

#### STATEMENT FROM THE HFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association, Inc. is a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation, comprised of 12 independent Board of Directors representing 13 mortuaries and 10 cemeteries that serve the largest majority of Hawaii's families. The HFCA is an independent association that acts in the best interest of its members and the community. The HFCA Board of Directors has reviewed and voted in support of HB1481.*

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Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair, Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee-Joy, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Jay Morford, President for the Hawaii Funeral and Cemetery Association, Inc. ("HFCA"). The HFCA is in SUPPORT of HB1481.

#### **Amendment Regarding Scheduling for Disposition of Deceased Human Remains**

##### **Purpose:**

To provide flexibility in scheduling of disposition of deceased human remains.

##### **Current Regulation:**

All dispositions of deceased human bodies (e.g., burials and cremations) require a permit from the Hawaii Department of Health prior to the final disposition of a decedent. This permit requires the applicant to include a specific date and location where the burial or cremation must occur. This permit also requires consent and signatures from a designated authorized representative over the disposition, or the majority of the "next of kin," which can sometimes require multiple individual family member's authorization for the final disposition.

Coordinating schedules and signatures from "next of kin" can often be challenging especially in periods of grief with little time for proper planning before permits must be submitted with a specific date prescribed for the disposition. Furthermore, changing the date on a permit requires an affidavit and failure to properly record the actual disposition date results in penalties and fines.



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These regulatory requirements can pose a significant burden on grieving families of the deceased as well as funeral homes, mortuaries, cemeteries, and crematoria when last minute circumstances create a change in the initial requested disposition date.

### **Proposed Amendment:**

To address this challenge, the Hawaii Funeral and Cemetery Association (HFCA) request an amendment that would allow a disposition to occur within 60 days of permit issuance and remove the requirement for a prescribed disposition date to be included in the permit application.

### **Proposed Language:**

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 531B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
- 3 and to read as follows:
- 4 "531B- Disposition of remains. (a) Any funeral
- 5 establishment, mortuary, cemetery, crematory, or hydrolysis
- 6 facility shall dispose of the remains of a dead human body no
- 7 later than sixty days from the date a permit has been issued
- 8 pursuant to section 338-23, or from the date of an affidavit for
- 9 amendment of the permit has been submitted. The department of
- 10 health shall not be required to include the specific disposition
- 11 date on the permit.
- 12 (b) The department of health shall adopt rules pursuant to
- 13 chapter 91 necessary for the purposes of this section."
- 14 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.
- 15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

We would like to thank you for your consideration.

Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association  
Board of Directors



**HB-1481**

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 11:04:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2026 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mitchell Dodo	Dodo Mortuary, Inc. & Crematory	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of the passage of this bill, as it will allow funeral service providers more flexibility in scheduling the disposition of deceased human remains.



**HAWAIIAN MEMORIAL**  
LIFE PLAN  
**BALLARD MORTUARY, INC.**

**LATE**

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB1481**

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January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

House Committee on Health  
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee-Joy, Vice Chair  
Committee Members

HEARING DATE/TIME: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan, Ltd. and Ballard Mortuary, Inc. operate 7 mortuaries and 3 Cemeteries throughout the State of Hawaii. We Support HB1481 for the reasons and comments that were submitted in the Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association's testimony.

The amendment would allow a disposition to occur within 60 days of permit issuance and will provide flexibility in scheduling of the disposition of deceased human remains.

Thank you for your consideration,

President

Jay Morford

**LATE**

**HB-1481**

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 11:06:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ricki S. Aoki	Hosoi Garden Mortuary	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hosoi Garden Mortuary supports HB1481 for the same reasons and comments that were submitted in the Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association’s testimony.

**HB-1481**

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 11:19:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Morikami	Oahu Mortuary	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oahu Mortuary supports HB1481 for the same reasons and comments that were submitted in the Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association's testimony.

David Morikami

Manager, Oahu Mortuary

**HB-1481**

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 3:48:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Curious...what is this about...what was prior practice? what caused this bill to come about? I will read the testimony submitted regarding this.