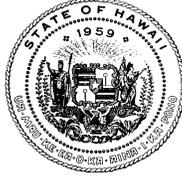


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A, M.P.H  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**LATE**

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY  
ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1481 HD1  
RELATING TO HUMAN REMAINS.**

REPRESENTATIVE SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

February 24, 2026 Room 329

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

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure that  
3 diminishes the administrative burden of funeral homes and mortuaries, while maintaining the  
4 integrity of the recordation of vital records, such as the death certificate and disposition permit.  
5 HB1481 HD1 provides needed flexibility when funeral homes are unable to secure the approval  
6 of all necessary family members to move forward with burial or cremation, despite exhaustive  
7 good faith efforts.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

9 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

10

**DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER  
KA 'OIHANA O KE KAUKA KILO KUPAPA'U  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

835 IWILEI ROAD • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3090 • FAX: (808) 768-3099 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



MASAHIKO KOBAYASHI, M.D., Ph.D.  
MEDICAL EXAMINER  
KAUKA KILO KUPAPA'U

SASHA BRELAND, M.D.  
DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER  
HOPE KAUKA KILO KUPAPA'U

**Testimony to provide COMMENTS for HB1481, HD1  
RELATING TO HUMAN REMAINS**

**Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
February 24, 2026**

The Department of the Medical Examiner (MED) of the City and County of Honolulu appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1481, HD1, relating to the disposition of human remains.

MED understands and supports the Legislature's intent to promote the timely and respectful disposition of decedents. However, MED respectfully wishes to raise a concern regarding a potential unintended consequence of the measure as currently drafted.

Specifically, the bill may unintentionally incentivize funeral establishments to delay assuming custody of remains in order to manage compliance risk associated with the sixty-day disposition requirement. Because the statutory clock does not begin until a burial-transit permit is issued or amended, providers may elect to leave decedent cases under MED's jurisdiction in MED custody longer than is currently the case, effectively shifting additional logistical and capacity burdens to MED. MED facilities are space-constrained and designed for temporary, investigative retention—not long-term storage—and prolonged custody strains resources, increases operational risk, and may create confusion or distress for families.

MED respectfully requests that your committee consider clarifying language to ensure the bill does not unintentionally encourage delayed transfer of remains related to decedent cases under MED's jurisdiction from MED custody as a means of compliance management, and that it preserves MED's ability to fulfill its statutory investigative responsibilities without becoming an unintended backstop for downstream disposition delays.

Sincerely,

Masahiko Kobayashi, M.D., Ph. D.  
Medical Examiner



# Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association, Inc.

1330 Maunakea Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

## Written Testimony in SUPPORT OF HB1481, HD1

### RELATING TO HUMAN REMAINS

February 20, 2026

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair  
Committee Members

HEARING DATE/TIME: February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 / 2PM

#### 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, HD1.*

---

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair, Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, 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, HD1.

#### **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.



## Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association, Inc.

1330 Maunakea Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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 may 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



**HAWAIIAN MEMORIAL**  
LIFE PLAN

**BALLARD MORTUARY, INC.**

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB1481, HD1**

RELATING TO HUMAN REMAINS

February 20, 2026

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair  
Committee Members

HEARING DATE/TIME: February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 / 2PM

Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan, Ltd. and Ballard Mortuary, Inc. operate 7 mortuaries and 3 Cemeteries throughout the State of Hawaii. We Support HB1481, HD1 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

**HB-1481-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:46:46 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<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:

Our firm supports the passage of HB 1481, HD1, as it will allow us more flexibility in the timing of allowing us to perform the special work we do.

**HB-1481-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:52:59 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

My name is Ricki S. Aoki, Senior Funeral Director and Vice-President of Hosoi Garden Mortuary. I am also a board member of the Hawaii Funeral and Cemetery Association. I am strongly in support of HB1481, HD1. Due to many unforeseen factors, such as the cancellation of a flight on which we have scheduled the transport of human remains, there are times when we would need not only to change disposition dates, but to do them quickly. Please believe me that timing of dispositions is very important for both the families and the funeral industry, and that this will give us the opportunity to do dispositions quickly, but also, as safely as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Ricki S. Aoki