



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 1871 H.D. 1
RELATING TO HEALTH**

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

March 20, 2026, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests that this measure,
2 which originally appropriated \$600,000, be considered a vehicle to provide this needed funding
3 so long as it does not supplant the priorities outlined in the Governor’s executive budget
4 request.

5 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Family Health Services Division (FHSD) provides the following
7 testimony on behalf of the Department.

8 The Department recognizes the importance of this measure in improving maternal health
9 outcomes related to hypertension and diabetes and acknowledges the urgency in addressing
10 preventable maternal morbidity. Services such as blood pressure and diabetes monitoring for
11 pregnant and postpartum individuals are already provided through Medicaid managed care
12 benefits, hospital-based programs, and routine obstetric care. The development of a statewide
13 real-time remote monitoring pilot will require robust clinical oversight, clear delineation of
14 responsibilities, and coordination across multiple existing systems. The Department currently
15 lacks the contract clinical oversight expertise to implement such a pilot and must engage with

1 managed care organizations and technology vendors to assess their capacity, existing
2 infrastructure, and potential to support the intent of this measure. The Department looks
3 forward to collaborating with these partners to ensure alignment, avoid duplication, and
4 explore technology-based solutions that enhance maternal health outcomes.

5 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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



March 19, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1871 HD1**, Relating to Health

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Llasmin Chaine, LSW, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB1871 HD1**, Relating to Health

Hearing: Friday, March 20, 2026, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to advancing gender equity, promoting the health and well-being of women, and ensuring that public policies address the unique needs of women in our state. I would like to express our **support of HB1871 HD1**, as it establishes a Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program within the Department of Health, and offers **an important opportunity to improve maternal health outcomes via hypertension, diabetes, pregnancy, and postpartum guidance**.

Remote patient monitoring for maternal hypertension and diabetes has been **recognized as an effective strategy to improve health outcomes by enabling earlier detection of complications, supporting timely interventions, and reducing barriers to accessing care**. By leveraging technology, the pilot program outlined in HB1871 HD1 can help bridge gaps for those who face challenges in attending frequent in-person appointments, assisting women living in rural areas or those with limited transportation. This aligns with best practices in maternal health care that **emphasize patient-centered approaches and equitable access**.

The Commission recognizes that the pilot program's success will depend on careful implementation, including culturally competent outreach, clear eligibility criteria, and robust evaluation measures. It is important that the program is accessible to the diverse populations who have historically faced higher risks of adverse maternal health outcomes, including Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders. Furthermore, collaboration with community-based organizations can enhance trust and participation among eligible women.

The Commission hopes the data collected through this pilot is used to inform broader maternal health policy improvements and that the lessons learned can be scaled to benefit all women in Hawaii. We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass HB1871 HD1**.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

March 18, 2026

Senator Joy San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Rm 225

Re: Support for HB 1871

Dear Chair San Buenaventura:

AdvaMed, the MedTech Association, is honored to support HB 1871. This bill leverages innovative digital technology to drive improved outcomes for mothers and babies by increasing access to maternity healthcare. It also helps to reduce costs through identifying and reducing pregnancy related complications – such as hypertension and diabetes.

AdvaMed is the largest association representing medical technology innovators and manufacturers. Our members are the device, diagnostics, and digital technology manufacturers transforming health care through earlier disease detection, less invasive procedures, and more effective treatments.

AdvaMed's mission is to ensure access to innovative technologies which improve patient lives. This bill aligns with this by expanding access to numerous health technologies, including remote patient monitoring. Appropriate use of these and other tools enabled by this legislation will help reduce stress, improve compliance, and ultimately lead to better, healthier outcomes.

Patients should have access to healthcare regardless of their location – via physical or virtual means. This bill takes significant strides in making this a reality for prenatal and postpartum women. AdvaMed is honored to support this legislation.

Sincerely,



Darbi Gottlieb
Senior Director, State Government & Regional Affairs
AdvaMed



HB-1871-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 11:58:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Luning	Testifying for Hawai'i FASD Action Group	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Amanda Luning, on behalf of the Hawai'i Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Action Group:

We believe that maternal monitoring should be person-centered on choice and engagement and based on integrative coaching and psychoeducational models.

We support this measure and hope that the monitoring in this pilot can include providing relationship-based support and knowledge on alcohol use during pregnancy (at any point) that is compassionate and provides a holding for safety around discussing any potential future needs that might be arise for both mother and child(ren).



March 20, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: Support for HB1871 HD1 - Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program

I am writing in strong support of HB1871 HD1 on behalf of the Diabetes Leadership Council (DLC), a patient advocacy organization committed to reducing barriers to effective, accessible, and equitable care by informing policymakers about the priorities and lived experiences of the diabetes community. Our members – all former leaders of national diabetes organizations – share a singular focus on patient-centered policy advocacy to improve the lives of all people impacted by diabetes.

I also write from the perspective of a clinician and maternal health expert. I serve as a Nutrition Consultant in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Joseph's University Medical Center and have spent decades working at the intersection of pregnancy, nutrition, and diabetes care. My professional experience includes service on the National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Panel on Diagnosing Gestational Diabetes, leadership roles within the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and advisory positions focused on maternal and child health at both the state and federal levels.

Gestational diabetes is a serious and increasingly common condition that carries significant short- and long-term health risks for both the pregnant individual and infant, including heightened risk of pregnancy complications and the future development of Type 2 diabetes. These risks are not distributed equally; communities of color and individuals with limited access to consistent prenatal and postpartum care are disproportionately affected.

The Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program created by HB1871 HD1 is an important step toward addressing these challenges by strengthening Hawai'i's approach to gestational diabetes through evidence-based policy. By improving access to appropriate screening, management, and follow-up, this bill aligns state policy with best clinical practice and helps ensure that individuals diagnosed with gestational diabetes receive timely, effective support during pregnancy and beyond.

From both a clinical and patient-advocacy perspective, HB1871 HD1 represents a thoughtful, prevention-oriented approach that can improve maternal health outcomes while reducing longer-term diabetes-related complications and costs. The Diabetes Leadership Council urges the Committee to advance the bill.

Thank you for your commitment to maternal and fetal health.

Sincerely,

Alyce Thomas
Vice Chair, Diabetes Leadership Council