

**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

February 12, 2026

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to Governor
Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

**RE: HB 2316 -- RELATING TO LEAD MATERIALS IN WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE**

HEARING: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 @ 09:30 am; Conference Room 325

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports HB 2316, with comments.

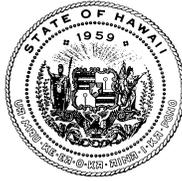
This bill is proposes stronger restrictions on lead in drinking water and to align the use of lead with the Safe Drinking Water Act as well as Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations. Therefore, this bill looks to amend state law to ensure safe drinking water conditions for the public by restricting the use of lead in piping or anything connected to a water system.

This bill addresses a critical public health and environmental concern. Lead in drinking water infrastructure poses well-documented health risks, particularly for infants, children, and other vulnerable populations. Even low levels of lead exposure can impair neurological development, reduce cognitive function, and contribute to long-term health issues. Modernizing state standards to fully align with federal requirements reflects a proactive commitment to protecting the health and safety of Hawai'i residents. Thus, also promoting consistent practices by the state to ensure safe, lead-free water and delivery systems to all.

In closing, this measure represents an important and necessary step toward ensuring clean, safe drinking water infrastructure for all communities across Hawaii and upholds public health standards consistent with federal requirements. Thank you for hearing HB 2316.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2316
RELATING TO LEAD MATERIALS IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 02/17/2026, 9:30 am, 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** There are no fiscal implications for the State and little to no impact
2 otherwise. This measure is applicable to new installations/replacement of drinking water
3 materials so there is no up-front cost in having to replace what is already installed.

4 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) supports this measure.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division, Safe Drinking Water Branch
6 (EMD-SDWB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7 Manufacturers in the United States are already required to use lead-free materials
8 meeting the definition proposed in this measure and the existing Federal definition published in
9 2020.

10 Lead is a potent neurotoxin and the presence of lead in drinking water has serious
11 negative effects on human health. There are no regulated safe levels of lead especially for
12 children and women of childbearing age. Minimizing exposure in children is a priority as lead
13 may cause irreversible damage to the brain, kidneys, and nervous system. This could potentially
14 lead to learning disabilities, decreased IQ, behavioral problems, and stunted growth. In adults,
15 lead can cause kidney damage, high blood pressure, and cardiovascular issues. This measure

1 aligns State statute with Federal regulations by adding more stringent restrictions on lead in
2 drinking water systems, making it more protective of human health.

3 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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



Founded 1889

PLUMBERS AND FITTERS LOCAL 675 UNITED ASSOCIATION



February 16, 2026

Hawaii State House of Representatives

Committee on Energy and Environment

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair; Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Reference: **House Bill 2316, Relating to Lead Materials In Water Infrastructure**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, Room 325 at 9:30 am

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso and Committee Members;

The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675 (“Local 675”) are one of three licensed crafts in Hawai‘i’s construction industry. Its member apprentices and journeymen are guided by and licensed in accordance with the Uniform Plumbing Code who’s primary purpose is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Local 675 SUPPORTS House Bill 2316 which amends Section 304E-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, subsection (i), on the use of lead materials in drinking water to align with the Safe Water Drinking Act and related Code of Federal Regulations.

The most currently published 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code, and as far back as the 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code (Section 604.2- Water Supply and Distribution), which govern the plumbing industry in Hawai‘i, are consistent with the provisions of this bill which brings into alignment, state law and Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, section 143.12 and 143.13.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HB-2316

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:13:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/17/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L Perry, SUPPORT

2316 HB RELATING TO LEAD MATERIALS IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

To: Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 16, 2026

RE: House Bill 2316
Measure Title: RELATING TO LEAD MATERIALS IN WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE.
Report Title: Department of Health; Drinking Water; Water Infrastructure; Lead-
free Materials

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 2316. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore