

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SIERRA WHITESIDE  
CHAIRPERSON

DAINTRY BARTOLDUS  
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** SB2271 SD1 HD1 Relating to Hospital Licensing

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DDC) submits testimony **in SUPPORT of SB2271 SD1 HD1** which, requires the Department of Health to adopt rules to allow hospitals to demonstrate compliance with all licensing inspections required by the State through accreditation or certification by any accreditation or certification organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities supports this measure because individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities rely heavily on hospital systems for acute care, behavioral health stabilization, and complex discharge coordination. Allowing hospitals to demonstrate compliance through any CMS-recognized accreditation organization reduces administrative burden while maintaining federal quality and safety standards. This alignment helps sustain hospital capacity, particularly in rural and neighbor island communities, which is essential for ensuring access to care for people with disabilities.

The Council also supports the continued authority of the Department of Health to investigate complaints and conduct validation surveys to protect patient safety and rights.

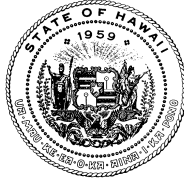
For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports SB2271 SD1 HD1**.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator



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

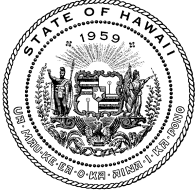
**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2271, SD1, HD1  
RELATED TO HOSPITAL LICENSING.**

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

Hearing Date and Time: TUES., April 7, 2026 @ 2:05 pm

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** No impact to the Department of Health (Department).
- 2 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure and offers comments.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA) provides the following
- 4 testimony on behalf of the Department. OHCA supports this measure which would allow
- 5 hospitals to demonstrate compliance with all licensing inspections required by the State
- 6 through accreditation or certification by any accreditation or certification organization
- 7 approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- 8 **Offered Amendments:** None
- 9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**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'ŌKELE

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ADMINISTRATOR

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April 6, 2026

**TO:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members

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

**RE: SB 2271-SD1-HD1 -- RELATING TO HOSPITAL LICENSING**

**HEARING:** Tuesday, April 7, 2026 @ 2:05 pm; Conference Room 329

**POSITION:** SUPPORT with COMMENTS

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Testimony:

SHPDA supports this bill which requires the Department of Health to adopt rules to allow hospitals to demonstrate compliance with all licensing inspections required by the State through accreditation or certification by any accreditation organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This is a long-overdue means of administrative simplification for the state without adversely impacting patient safety or quality.

Thank you for hearing SB 2271-SD1-HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



April 7, 2026 at 2:05 pm  
Conference Room 329

**House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce**

To: Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi  
Vice Chair Tina Nakada Grandinetti

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**SB 2271 SD 1 HD 1, Relating to Hospital Licensing**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of this measure, which seeks to modernize how hospitals are licensed in Hawaii by allowing facilities to use any accrediting organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to meet state licensure standards.

Currently, Hawaii law allows the Department of Health (DOH) to only accept accreditation by The Joint Commission to demonstrate compliance with state licensing inspections. This bill would update Hawaii statute to allow DOH to recognize any accrediting organization approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to meet state licensure standards.

As background—hospitals must be licensed and certified by both CMS and the state licensing entity—in this case, the Office of Healthcare Assurance (OHCA), which is housed under DOH. It is very important for hospitals to receive these accreditations and certifications so that they can participate in the Medicaid and Medicare programs. On the federal level, CMS uses accrediting organizations to survey and certify hospitals on their behalf. If a hospital passes a survey by an accrediting organization, they are “deemed” to be in compliance with federal Medicare Conditions of Participation (CoPs) and can participate in the program.

States, including Hawaii, often use a hospital's “deemed status” by CMS as evidence of compliance with state licensing standards. In practice, this means that if a hospital receives

approval by an accrediting organization and thus deemed to meet Medicare CoPs, Hawaii will accept that accreditation in lieu of a separate state inspection. This practice avoids duplicative surveys while still ensuring hospitals meet stringent quality and safety requirements under both federal and state law.

There are only a handful of accrediting organizations that CMS has approved to carry out this task, and they undergo thorough vetting and scrutiny at least every six years to continue this important task. For many decades, the only accrediting organization approved by CMS to certify hospitals was The Joint Commission (TJC). However, there are now several options that hospitals can choose from to achieve certification and participation in crucial federal programs.

Unfortunately, Hawaii state law was written many decades ago and it has not been revised to reflect the broader range of accreditation options that hospitals enjoy today. Updating Hawaii law to recognize any CMS-approved hospital accrediting organization is a common-sense modernization that maintains high standards, strengthens alignment with federal oversight, and uses state resources more effectively while preserving OHCA's ability to respond to complaints and patient safety concerns.

We respectfully request that an effective date of upon approval be added to this measure. This legislation is widely supported, and will provide immediate relief for providers and state regulators alike.

Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Tuesday, April 7, 2026; 2:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 329 & Video Conference

**House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**

To: Representative Scott Matayoshi, Chair  
Representative Tina Grandinetti, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**SB 2271, SD1, HD1**  
**Relating To Hospital Licensing**

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My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over seventy locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in support of SB 2271 which Permits hospitals to demonstrate compliance with all licensing inspections required by the State through accreditation or certification by any accreditation or certification organization approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

This bill will modernize how hospitals are licensed in Hawaii by allowing facilities to use any accrediting organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to meet state licensure standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Government Relations

Testimony of  
Jonathan Ching  
Head of Government Relations

**LATE**

Before:  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair  
The Honorable Tina Grandinetti, Vice Chair

April 7, 2026  
2:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 329  
Via Videoconference

**Re: SB 2271, SD1, HD1, Relating to Hospital Licensing**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2271, SD1, HD1, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Health to adopt rules to permit hospitals to demonstrate compliance with all licensing inspections required by the State through accreditation or certification by any accreditation or certification organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS SB 2271, SD1, HD1.**

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide and more than 271,000 members in Hawai'i. In Hawai'i, more than 4,600 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers, including over 80 physician assistants, work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i has more than 20+ medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the people living in the communities we serve.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports SB 2271, SD1, HD1 because it provides the Department of Health the flexibility to recognize other accrediting bodies in addition to The Joint Commission to demonstrate a hospital's compliance with all licensing inspections required by the State of Hawai'i.

We respectfully request the committee PASS SB 2271, SD1, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.