



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

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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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ADMINISTRATOR

February 17, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, 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 3133 -- RELATING TO RELATING TO PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.**

HEARING: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 @ 9:45 pm; Conference Room 229

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

TESTIMONY:

SHPDA strongly supports this bill's intent, given current changes in Washington policy that could adversely affect funding of prevention services and access to scientifically proven prevention benefits. Preventive services reduce health care costs and contribute to reducing avoidable emergency department use, progression of disease, and preventable disease complications over time. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, and low-income families who are most sensitive to even modest copays and deductibles may avoid prevention service due to co-pays.

Because the bill creates the DOH Preventive Services Advisory Committee to oversee ongoing access to preventive services, we defer to the DOH on its ability to manage this new responsibility. They may have other recommendations on how to achieve the intent of the bill. If created and feasible, the Advisory Committee's structure should ensure meaningful input from safety-net, FHQC, primary care providers, and rural perspectives.

We also defer to the DOH and DCCA on any operational details, enforcement, and/or fiscal impacts associated with the worthy intent. Most importantly, we need to assure that Hawaii's public continues to have full access to preventive services regardless of policy changes in Washington. The Western Compact States, including Hawai'i, could be a useful vehicle for maintaining access to scientifically sound preventive services.

Thank you for hearing SB 3133; and for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 3133
Relating to Preventive Medicine**

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

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 17, 2026, 9:45 am, Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure would require health insurance coverage without cost-
- 2 sharing for DOH Hawaii Preventive Services Advisory Committee-recommended clinical
- 3 preventive services. The measure would preserve no-cost access to essential preventive
- 4 services, including immunizations. The loss of no-cost access to preventive services would likely
- 5 increase out-of-pocket health care expenses for Hawaii residents, causing individuals to delay
- 6 or forego preventive care. Such delays would increase the risk of infectious disease outbreaks
- 7 and contribute to the growing burden of chronic disease across the State.
- 8 **Department Position:** The Department strongly **SUPPORTS** this measure and offers comments.
- 9 **Department Testimony:** **DOCD** provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.
- 10 Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, health plans are required to cover
- 11 immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and

1 other clinical preventive services recommended by the US Preventive Services Task Force
2 (USPSTF) without patient cost-sharing. Although the science has not changed, in the past year
3 ACIP recommendations have, and the USPSTF has not met since March of 2025. This measure
4 will:

- 5 • Help ensure that Hawaii's residents continue to have coverage without cost-sharing of
6 evidence-based immunizations and certain other clinical preventive services for those
7 who choose to receive them.
- 8 • Reduce confusion for patients and providers by creating a process for clear state-based
9 decision-making and guidance driven by local healthcare providers to make
10 recommendations for immunizations and certain clinical preventive services.
- 11 • Expand access, particularly benefitting rural areas, by allowing pharmacists to provide
12 recommended immunizations.
- 13 • Protect healthcare providers who provide evidence-based clinical preventive services.

14 Long-standing, evidence based, and scientifically validated clinical practice guidelines for
15 preventive medicine are increasingly at risk due to changing Federal policies and priorities
16 which depart from recommendations supported by the overwhelming body of medical
17 evidence, and that may restrict access to evidence-based immunizations and other preventive
18 services. S.B. 3133 provides a process for DOH to continue to issue a unified set of evidence-
19 based recommendations for immunizations and for other preventive services. Such guidelines
20 are critical to both providers and patients. Providers remain the most trusted source of health

1 information, and their active involvement in the process of developing and implementing these
2 standards would strengthen confidence and compliance.

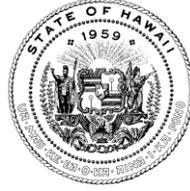
3 DOH Hawaii Preventive Services Advisory Committee would develop supplemental or
4 alternative clinical preventive services recommendations, grounded in the best available
5 scientific evidence, to maintain continuity of care for Hawaii's residents. These
6 recommendations would provide State-level guidance and flexibility for Hawaii's healthcare
7 providers and insurers if changes in Federal policy restrict access to certain preventive services.

8 Benefits of this measure include minimizing confusion among healthcare providers and the
9 public as to whether they will continue to have access to evidence-based immunizations,
10 removing barriers for pharmacists to be able to administer immunizations given the current
11 requirements of Hawaii law and recent ACIP and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
12 changes, and protecting providers from liability for following the evidence-based
13 recommendations that may differ from ACIP.

14 Similarly, it is vital that we are able to preserve the benefits the recommendations of the US
15 Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) provide that under the Patient Protection and
16 Affordable Care Act (PPACA) health plans are also required to cover without cost-sharing.
17 USPSTF recommended services for children include things such as screening for anxiety and
18 depression, application of fluoride varnish to teeth to prevent caries, and counseling to prevent
19 sexually transmitted infections and tobacco use.

1 Our goal is to reduce confusion and build trust, and having local providers be the ones
2 determining the evidence-based vaccination and preventive service recommendations would
3 contribute significantly to that effort. It is critical that we preserve access for those that choose
4 to follow these recommendations through coverage without cost-sharing, preserving
5 pharmacists' ability to provide the recommended services, and protecting providers who
6 deliver the evidence-based preventive services.

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



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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committees on Health and Human Services
and
Commerce and Consumer Protection
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
9:45 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 229 and via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 3133, RELATING TO PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Scott K. Saiki, and I am the Insurance Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to (1) establish the Hawai'i Preventive Services Advisory Committee and authorize the Department of Health to issue preventive service recommendations; (2) require health insurance coverage without cost-sharing for Department of Health-recommended clinical preventive services; (3) provide immunity for healthcare providers' and facilities' provision of recommended clinical preventive services.

The Department notes that it is unclear whether the amendments in sections 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11 of this bill would trigger the defrayal requirements of 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 155.170. Under the Affordable Care Act, if a state

mandates benefits that are "in addition to" the essential health benefits defined in the state's benchmark plan, the State is required to defray the cost of those additional benefits. This means the State would be responsible for paying the additional premium costs for those benefits for all individuals enrolled in qualified health plans on the exchange.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



February 17, 2026 at 9:45 am
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

To: Chair Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga

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

Re: Testimony in Support
SB 3133, Relating to Preventive Medicine

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 health care 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 **support** this measure, which seeks to establish the Hawaii Preventive Services Advisory Committee to bolster public health guidance and services. We believe the establishment of this committee within the Department of Health provides a thoughtful state-level mechanism to review, consider, and adopt evidence-based recommendations to provide clarity to providers and families in the state. Importantly, the bill maintains a clear focus on recommendations that have already met high evidentiary thresholds, reinforcing confidence that covered services are clinically appropriate and supported by strong data.

We also support the provision clarifying immunity for providers who deliver preventive services consistent with recommendations by the committee. Providers should be able to follow evidence-based guidance without fear of professional or civil liability, so long as care is delivered appropriately and within the standard of care. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



Hawaii Medical Association

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Date: February 17, 2026

From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

Christina Marzo MD and Robert Carlisle MD, Vice Chairs, HMA Public Policy Committee

RE SB 3133 RELATING TO PREVENTIVE MEDICINE. DOH; Hawai'i Preventive Services Advisory Committee; Insurance Coverage; Cost-Share; Standing Orders; Immunity; Sunrise Analysis Exemption
Position: Support

This measure would establish the Hawai'i Preventive Services Advisory Committee and authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to issue preventive service recommendations, require health insurance coverage without cost-sharing for Department of Health-recommended clinical preventive services, and provide immunity for healthcare providers' and facilities' provision of recommended clinical preventive services.

Clinical preventive services, including cancer screenings, immunizations, diabetes and cardiovascular risk screenings, and behavioral health screenings, are proven to detect disease early and promote long-term health, reducing morbidity and health care expenditures when delivered routinely and equitably.

HMA supports this measure to create a preventive services advisory committee in DOH that ensures that coverage decisions are grounded in science and standardized expertise. As federal protections change or are narrowed, state advisory mechanisms will help tailor preventive priorities to our local population health needs and health system characteristics, while maintaining alignment with evidence-based standards. Additionally removing financial barriers like cost sharing will increase screening uptake, vaccination rates, chronic disease management, and early intervention, all of which contribute to improved Hawaii population health outcomes and reduced disparities.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to submit testimony in support of this measure.

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Elizabeth A Ignacio, MD, Chair • Robert Carlisle, MD, Vice Chair • Christina Marzo, MD, Vice Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President • Jerald Garcia, MD, President Elect • Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, Immediate Past President
Laeton Pang, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

Tran A et al. "Role of Chronic Conditions in Out-of-Pocket Costs for Preventive Care." *JAMA Network Open*, 2026.

Hoagland A et al. "Social Determinants of Health and Insurance Claim Patterns Related to Preventive Care." *JAMA Network Open*, 2024.

Kaiser Family Foundation. ACA Preventive Services Tracker. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2024, <https://www.kff.org/affordable-care-act/aca-preventive-services-tracker/>.

Bronsard M et al. "Use of No-Cost Preventive Services Jeopardized by Federal Litigation." *JAMA Health Forum*, 2025.

Congressional Research Service. *The ACA Preventive Services Coverage Requirement.* CRS, 23 May 2025, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF13010>.

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

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Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Beth England, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Director of Public Policy
Maria Rallojey, Public Policy Specialist

Hearing: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 9:45am, Conference Room 229

RE: **SB3133 Relating to Preventive Medicine**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support with comments on SB3133**. This measure would establish the Hawai'i Preventive Services Advisory Committee and authorizes the Department of Health to issue preventive service recommendations; require health insurance coverage without cost-sharing for Department of Health-recommended clinical preventive services; and provide immunity for healthcare providers' and facilities' provision of recommended clinical preventive services.

AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan founded by Hawai'i's Community Health Centers and the Queen Emma Clinics. We serve over 66,000 Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dual-eligible residents on all islands. Since 1994, AlohaCare has partnered with providers, government entities, and community-based organizations to meet the evolving needs of our safety net community as Hawai'i's only health plan focused solely on Medicaid-eligible individuals. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for equitable access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare's commitment to quality care and health equity includes promoting access to preventive care across the communities we serve. Evidence-based preventive care, such as recommended screenings, immunizations, and early interventions, keeps people healthier and helps avoid more serious and costly illness later on. For Medicaid/QUEST enrollees, access to these services is especially important for advancing health equity and reducing disparities caused by delayed or foregone care. Nationally, preventive care guidelines issued by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force determine which services Medicaid covers and reimburses, directly affecting whether patients can access care and whether providers can offer it. As federal preventive health protections face increasing uncertainty, this measure



helps protect Hawai'i residents by maintaining a clear commitment to evidence-based guidelines, ensuring preventive care remains accessible, covered, and grounded in science for our Medicaid/QUEST population.

This measure requires coverage of services potentially not required at the federal level. For the Medicaid/QUEST program, we would ask the Legislature to ensure any services required at the state level are adequately funded for plans and providers alike to ensure sustainable, continued access. For the proposed Preventive Services Advisory Committee, AlohaCare appreciates the inclusion of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans, as we are a member.

For these reasons, AlohaCare supports this measure requesting that the Legislature ensure any preventive services required at the state level but not at the federal level are adequately considered in payment rates to plans and providers.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support with comments on SB3133.**

SB-3133

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:24:33 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/17/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Dieperink	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly **OPPOSE SB3133**

I feel this is a reaction to the recent changes in vaccine recommendations by the federal ACIP committee.

We don't need our own Hawaii-based ACIP-type committee. But if you do create one, please make them **LIABLE** for their recommendations, especially when it comes to vaccine recommendations. If they are all so safe and effective, the committee should have no problems being held liable.

February 16, 2026 8:45am

To: Hawaii Senate Health and Human Services and Commerce and Consumer Protection Committees

From: Cheryl Toyofuku, (Mother, Grandmother, Retired Registered Nurse)

Relating to: Opposition to SB3133 relating to Preventive Medicine

Description: Establishes the Hawai'i Preventive Services Advisory Committee and authorizes the Department of Health to issue preventive service recommendations. Requires health insurance coverage without cost-sharing for Department of Health-recommended clinical preventive services. Provides immunity for healthcare providers' and facilities' provision of recommended clinical preventive services.

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole and the HHS and CPN Committee Members,

I am in strong opposition to SB3133 which attempts to establish a preventive service advisory committee (HPSAC) and to require health insurance coverage for preventive health services. Here are some of my reasons and concerns:

1. It questionable states that preventive services “such as immunizations and other evidence-based preventive interventions” should continue to be required to be covered by health insurance. It is not “unwarranted skepticism” towards vaccinations, but our grave concerns over the lack of its safety and effectiveness. Please see this link to a comprehensive site and research vaccine information:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-2O7egoNeA_ktiFEKvTQtUumdO962s8fhhgRVM_xv6o/edit?tab=t.0

2. The Director of Hawaii's Department of Health has provided a list of recommended members for this advisory committee from various health organizations. Most, if not all of these health care organizations promote toxic vaccinations as a preventive health service. The first organization listed, the American Academy of Pediatrics has recently been hit with a lawsuit due to fraudulent vaccine safety claims:

<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/chd-rico-lawsuit-against-aap-fraudulent-vaccine-safety-claims/>

Although some of these health organizations may provide some preventive services, this list strangely omits other health organizations that assist our Hawaii families with preventive services. Numerous naturopathic and nutritional organizations that focus on health care programs that often safely and effectively help us build up our immune systems to fight diseases are missing on this list.

3. Providing immunity for the DOH, HSPAC, health care providers and facilities drastically decreases the needed accountability for their liabilities and responsibilities in providing health preventive recommendations, such as vaccinations.

Please OPPOSE SB3133, an unnecessary bill. Other health insurance coverage for other medical interventions are available already, but requiring vaccinations to be covered should not be required.

SB-3133

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:43:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/17/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose this unnecessary SB 3133. Other health insurance coverage for other medical interventions are available already, but requiring vaccinations to be covered should not be required.

Mahalo,

Linda

LATE

SB-3133

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 12:44:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/17/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I appose SB3133