

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

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February 26, 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: **SB 3136 -- RELATING TO RELATING TO LEAD MATERIALS IN
WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

HEARING: Thursday, March 19, 2026 @ 9:40 am; Conference Room 325

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports SB 3136, with comments.

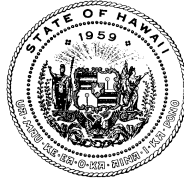
Senate Bill 3136 proposes stronger restrictions on lead in drinking water and to align the use of lead with the Safe Drinking Water Act as well as Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations. Therefore, SB 3136 looks to amend state law to ensure safe drinking water conditions for the public by restricting the use of lead in piping or anything connected to a water system.

SB 3136 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 SB 3136 and mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3136
RELATING TO LEAD MATERIALS IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 03/19/2026, 09:40 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.



The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675

1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia

March 18, 2026

Hawaii House of Representatives, Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
State Representative(s) Nicole Lowen, Chair/ Amy Perruso, Vice Chair

Re: SB 3136 Relating to Lead Materials in Water Infrastructure

Hearing: Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 9:40am, Room 325

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 whose primary purpose is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Local 675 SUPPORTS Senate Bill 3136 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 current 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code, and as far back as the 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code (Section 604.2- Water Supply and Distribution), which governs the plumbing industry in Hawai'i, is 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.

