



STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'ŌIHANA OLAKINO
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3136
RELATING TO LEAD MATERIALS IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 02/06/2026, 1:00 pm, 225

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.



**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

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

February 5, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, 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 LEAD MATERIALS IN WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE**

HEARING: Friday, February 6, 2026 @ 1:00 pm; Conference Room 225 and
Videoconference

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.

SB3136: testimony of SHPDA (2026), continued.

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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA

SB-3136

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:45:09 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/6/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel Agunat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Gabriel Agunat, and I am a resident of this state. I am submitting written testimony in support of SB3136, which amends state prohibitions on the use of lead materials in drinking water infrastructure to align with the Safe Drinking Water Act and related code of federal regulations. Ensuring that drinking water systems are free from lead is vital for protecting public health. Lead exposure is especially dangerous for children and pregnant individuals, and even small amounts can cause serious long-term health effects. Updating state standards to require lead-free materials helps prevent these risks before they occur. SB3136 is an important step toward maintaining safe and reliable water infrastructure and creating consistent standards that reflect current science and federal law. This bill also helps protect communities that are most vulnerable to aging infrastructure and environmental health risks. Access to clean drinking water should be a basic expectation for everyone. For these reasons, I urge you to support SB3136. Thank you for your time and consideration.