

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB 194
RELATING TO TUBERCULOSIS TESTING**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 14, 2017

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of SB 194. This Bill
3 requires the Department of Health to accept all tuberculosis tests that are approved by the Food
4 and Drug Administration and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
5 for mandatory tuberculosis screening. The Department is in the process of updating Chapter
6 164, Hawaii Administrative Rules to meet the requirements of SB 194.

7 **Offered Amendments:** On page 1, line 13, we recommend changing “they are more appropriate
8 tests” to “they are appropriate tests” to reflect the actual science behind these recommendations
9 and the high cost of these tests compared to the Mantoux tuberculin skin test.

10 On page 2, lines 2 and 3, we recommend deleting “or chest xrays” as this implies that an IGRA
11 would suffice for a CXR, which is not correct.

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

March 11, 2017

To: Representative Della Belatti, Chair of House Health Committee, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair of Education Committee
From: Cheryl Toyofuku
Re: Support for SB194 – Relating to Tuberculosis Testing
Hearing: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 8:30 a.m., Room 329

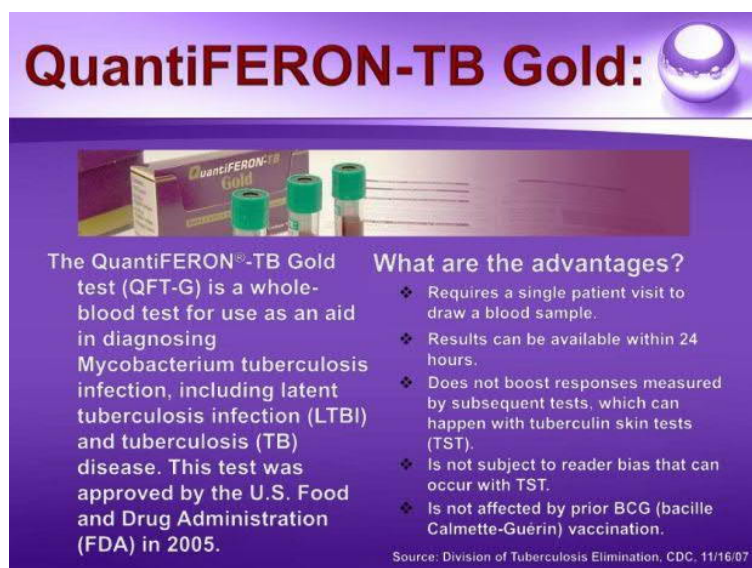
I support SB194 that will provide a tuberculosis blood test as an acceptable TB diagnostic for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of TB examination. The CDC statement verifies that “There are two kinds of tests that are used to detect TB bacteria in the body: the TB skin test (TST) and the TB blood tests.” <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/>


Two TB blood tests are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are available in the United States: the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) and the T-SPOT®.TB test (T-Spot).


<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/tbtesttypes.htm>

A TB blood test is a much safer, more accurate, quicker and convenient test for the detection of tuberculosis infection.

<http://www.quantiferon.com/irm/content/quantiferon-tb-gold1.aspx?RID=300>



QuantiFERON-TB Gold: 



The QuantiFERON®-TB Gold test (QFT-G) is a whole-blood test for use as an aid in diagnosing Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection, including latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) and tuberculosis (TB) disease. This test was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2005.

What are the advantages?

- ❖ Requires a single patient visit to draw a blood sample.
- ❖ Results can be available within 24 hours.
- ❖ Does not boost responses measured by subsequent tests, which can happen with tuberculin skin tests (TST).
- ❖ Is not subject to reader bias that can occur with TST.
- ❖ Is not affected by prior BCG (bacille Calmette-Guérin) vaccination.

Source: Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, CDC, 11/16/07

The TB blood test is less harmful than the TB skin test where tuberculin purified protein derivative (antigen) is injected under the skin.

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/testing/skintesting.htm>

Europe approved the TB blood test in 2004 which replaced the tuberculin skin test.

<http://icpa4kids.org/Wellness-Research/europe-approves-tb-blood-test-forget-tb-skin-tests.html>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 7:26 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: dr.mauldesoto@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Red Category

SB194

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Corinne Maul De Soto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill as it is in alignment with CDC guidelines stating that the Quantifeton gold TB blood test is an acceptable screening, as good as the Mantoux test. Please update Hawaii Dept of Health and Ed guidelines to allow this test for children for school entrance.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 11:25 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kona-g@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM

SB194

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gretchen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hi thank you for reintroducing this measure. I support the Qft-gold Tb blood test Bc it is more accurate than the TST skin test and is safer for the individual. This allows for a simple blood draw with no possibility or a reaction. The TST skin test contains TB proteins, phenol and polysorbate 80. All things we really don't want in our bodies and have known side effects including anaphylaxis. The Qft-gold blood test is recognized by the FDA and had been since 2005. It is accepted for food handlers in Hawaii and school entry in the states. I have spoken to the heads at the health dept like Elizabeth MacNeil and they all support this blood test as a way of Tb screening. I urge you to please vote yes and support this bill. Other states have already done so for many years. Thank you so much.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 8:54 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: bigislandbeadz@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM

SB194

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heidi McKeague	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB194. The quanteferon gold blood test should be allowed as it is allowed in California for students, teachers, healthcare workers, & food and beverage employees. It is safe, effective, non-invasive, and does not include ingredients that are harmful like the skin-test does. We opted for a chest X-ray for our 4 year old son and he didn't get in to school so the following year we asked for a blood test. My husband took our son in to the clinic and spoke to the doctor about the blood test and then a nurse came in as quick as can be and administered the skin test against our wishes. This completely negated all the effort we put into getting the X-ray to avoid the skin test and now our son has been exposed to unnecessary harmful ingredients. I strongly SUPPORT this bill. Thank you.

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kobayashi1- Oshiro

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 9:50 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: helgaonmaui@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM*

SB194

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helga Fiederer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: laurenelaine721@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM*

SB194

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Ampolos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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kobayashi1- Oshiro

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Cc: foodsovereignty@now@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM*

SB194

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitsuko Hayakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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kobayashi2 - Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 12:23 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: lisawilford@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM

SB194

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LISA WILFORD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill

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kobayashi2 - Jessi

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Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:47 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: nakoam@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM*

SB194

Submitted on: 3/12/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maly Nako	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 7:48 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: javanut418@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM*

SB194

Submitted on: 3/12/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Chao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2017 9:58 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: kaloko4@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM

SB194

Submitted on: 3/12/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Curnel Struempf DEM	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The blood test for TB is a safer than the current test. Please support this bill! Mahalo for your consideration! Rachel Struempf

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jmichthus@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB194 on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM

SB194

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica McCormick	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT SB194. Allowing the Tuberculosis Blood Test as a screening is long overdue. The Tuberculosis Blood Test is a safer option than the Mantoux test, and it is also more accurate according to the research I have done. Here are the advantages according to the manufacturer's website: What are the advantages of QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube over tuberculin skin test (TST)? Improved specificity Results are not subject to reader bias Results are not affected by the booster phenomenon (i.e., increased sensitivity on subsequent test, leading to false-positive results) Accuracy is not affected by prior BCG (bacille Calmette- Guérin) vaccination Requires only 1 patient visit (2-4 required for TST) Cost savings from reduced staff time and avoidance of unnecessary follow-up testing and treatment

<http://www.questdiagnostics.com/home/physicians/testing-services/by-test-name/quantiferon.html>

This test has been approved by the FDA and CDC since 2010, and one of the top officials in the Hawaii Department of Health Tuberculosis Control Program expressed their frustration that this test was not legally an option when we sought it for our children in 2015! This bill needs to be passed as soon as possible and made into law immediately so that people can do the more safe and effective screening whenever it is a requirement for school or work attendance.

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