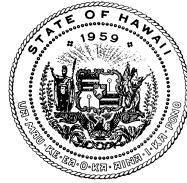


# HB898

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.
Report Title:	Board of Health; Abolished
Description:	Deletes statutory references pertaining to the abolished Board of Health.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH
Introducer(s):	BELATTI, MIZUNO



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB898  
RELATING TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.**

**LATE**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 19, 2019

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the repeal of the Board of Health  
3 for two primary reasons.

4 The first is that the entire Board has been vacant for the past several years due to a lack of  
5 interest from members willing to serve. Section 26-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, established 11  
6 members appointed by the Governor, but despite recruitment efforts the department has been  
7 unable to convene a Board that meets quorum.

8 The second justification is that an advisory board for a centralized state public health agency is  
9 no longer necessary due to the evolution of state and federal regulations, community standards of  
10 practice, grant guidance, and legislative oversight.

11 Boards of Health often add value to local or municipal jurisdictions on the mainland where they  
12 often have supervision, enforcement, and policy-making authority. However, the scope of the  
13 Hawaii Department of Health is too broad and complex – spanning public health, behavioral  
14 health, and environmental protection – for meaningful advisement by a generalist board

15 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

16