

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

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY  
ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB723  
RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE.**

REP. LINDA ICHiyAMA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Hearing Date: February 4, 2021

Room Number: N/A

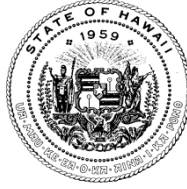
1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports access to resources to  
2 assure employees, front line healthcare workers, and the public have robust access to Personal  
3 Protective Equipment and industrial hygiene products. DOH continues to work through the  
4 Office of Public Health Preparedness and other programs with relevant stakeholders to assure  
5 stockpiling and distribution. As community vaccination efforts take root, and as more virulent  
6 COVID variations proliferate the globe, our community cannot afford to slow down, least of all  
7 due to shortages in critical supplies. This measure will help assure that critical stakeholders are  
8 well supplied and protected.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

11

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 4, 2021  
11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.B. 723**  
**RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

House Committee(s) on Pandemic Response and Disaster Response  
& Economic Development

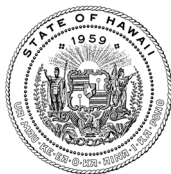
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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** H.B. 723, which provides much needed funding for the continued acquisition and use of personal protective equipment and industrial hygiene supplies, for state agencies and departments in response to the ongoing pandemic conditions, which continue to pose challenges to maintaining governmental operations throughout our State.

The particular text which provides for the clear inclusion of these Executive Branch organizations to be among the targets for the continued supply of these items, through the request-for-assistance system established by the State's Department of Defense, is sincerely appreciated by the DOT.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 723

**February 4, 2021**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Room 309**

RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The Department of Budget and Finance supports the passage of HB 723. HB 723 clarifies that the authorized use of CARES Act funds includes the purchase of industrial hygiene products and that state departments and attached agencies can receive personal protective equipment and industrial hygiene products purchased with this appropriation from CARES Act funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA  
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
  
LUKE P. MEYERS  
ADMINISTRATOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
  
PHONE (808) 733-4300  
FAX (808) 733-4287

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 723,  
RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

Before the House Committee on  
**PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

By

Luke P. Meyers  
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Eli and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 723 authorizes use of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund, from the amounts received by the State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, for the purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment and industrial hygiene products to state departments and attached agencies. Effective retroactive to 7/1/2020.

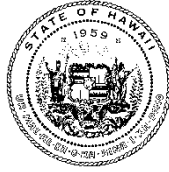
The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 723.

HI-EMA supports this measure which would allow more PPE to be purchased and distributed with State Departments and Agencies to aid in curbing the community spread of the coronavirus. This measure builds on the capabilities that has been distributed with partners for the COVID-19 Incident.

Thank you.

Luke P. Meyers: [Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov](mailto:Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov); 808-733-4300

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



LATE

BONNIE KAHAKUI  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

P.O. Box 119  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119  
Tel: (808) 586-0554  
email: [state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov](mailto:state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov)  
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>  
Twitter: [@hawaiispo](https://twitter.com/hawaiispo)

TESTIMONY  
OF  
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES  
ON  
PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS  
AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
February 4, 2021, 11 a.m.

House Bill 723  
RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Chairs Ichiyama and Quinlan, Vice-Chairs Eli and Holt, and members of the joint committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB723. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports this bill and provides the following comments.

Since March 2020, the SPO has been on-board to support the emergency needs for the State of Hawaii during the declared pandemic by purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) and industrial hygiene supplies that meet CDC requirements.

To date, the SPO has provided procurement services for over \$50,000,000 of CARES allocation as part of the HI-EMA logistics team by purchasing respirators, ventilators, cloth masks, goggles, face shield, gloves, gowns, booties, suits/coveralls, hand sanitizer, hand sanitizer stations, and disinfecting products. Close to 50% of all purchases were from local suppliers and manufacturers.

Thank you.

Bill Number  
Committee  
Date of Hearing  
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LATE

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/04/2021

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Pandemic & Disaster  
Preparedness

House Economic Development

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0723 RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes use of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund, from the amounts received by the State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, for the purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment and industrial hygiene products to state departments and attached agencies. Effective retroactive to 7/1/2020.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 0723.

The Department has relied heavily on obtaining sufficient supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and industrial hygiene items from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA). HI-EMA has played a vital and critical role in the purchasing and distribution of the Department's PPE needs.

The opening of schools for in-person learning while ensuring the safety and health of its employees and students would be virtually impossible without the procurement of adequate supplies of PPE and industrial hygiene items from HI-EMA.

In 2020, the Department obtained over \$6 million of PPE and IH supplies, the great majority of which were provided through HI-EMA at no cost to the Department. In addition, another \$4.8 million of PPE and industrial hygiene supplies were purchased directly by the schools using their local budgets.

As the pandemic continues, PPE and industrial hygiene supplies are needed to prevent outbreaks and keep students, teachers, and families safe through healthy practices, such as wearing face masks, washing hands, and maintaining social distance.

The Department estimates the costs for PPE and industrial hygiene products at approximately \$1 million per month in order for schools to safely return to in-person learning and achieving its academic mission.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 0723, particularly the dedicated funding it would provide for PPE and industrial hygiene products for Hawaii's public schools

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).





**Testimony to the House Joint Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness and  
Economic Development  
Thursday, February 4, 2021; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0723, RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE.**

Chair Ichiyama, Chair Quinlan, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0723, RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would clarify that the \$100,000,000 appropriated out of the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 to purchase and distribute personal protection equipment to hospitals, childcare facilities, elderly care facilities, businesses, non-profits and schools may also be used for the purchase of industrial hygiene products and for all State departments and attached agencies.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

When our citizens first became infected with COVID-19 in February 2020, Hawaii's social safety net was not prepared. Basic necessities such as surgical and N-95 masks, gowns, shields, and other personal protection equipment (PPD) quickly became scarce. For our 15 FQHCs, very limited resources became stretched to the breaking point forcing providers to limit the provision of health care services in some instances.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 723**

**Thursday, February 4, 2021; 9:30 a.m.**

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I'm pleased to say that the system did not shut down because of the dedication and selfless actions of providers working with community leaders, legislators, the Governor and his Administration, and the Mayors and their Administrations to keep the safety net afloat.

It cannot be overstated that these actions saved countless lives in Hawaii.

While the supply of PPE has stabilized due in large part to the efforts of the Department of Defense and private partners, among others, there are additional types of PPEs that can be utilized as well as other workers who can make use of these important tools. Accordingly, this bill would provide the State with additional flexibility to utilize very limited funds previously appropriated for best use. Because of the, the HPCA wholeheartedly supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or [eabe@hawaiiipca.net](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
C O R P O R A T I O N

*"Quality Healthcare For All"*

**House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness**  
**and**  
**House Committee on Economic Development**

February 4, 2021  
11:00 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Via Videoconference

**Testimony in Strong Support of House Bill 723  
RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE.**

**Authorizes use of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund, from the amounts received by the State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, for the purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment and industrial hygiene products to state departments and attached agencies. Effective retroactive to 7/1/2020.**

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support of H.B. 723** that authorizes use of funds appropriated from the emergency and budget reserve fund, from the amounts received by the State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, for the purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment and industrial hygiene products to state departments and attached agencies.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic through December 31, 2020, HHSC has incurred almost \$9,000,000 in expenses relating to preparation, testing, and treatment of COVID-19. These costs include the staffing costs related to pandemic treatment and testing, personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, other equipment such as ventilators, and renovation/retrofitting costs. Should this bill pass, HHSC will be seeking funding to relieve the burden of incurring these costs to the extent that these costs are not covered by other State or federal funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee **in strong support** of this measure.

**HB-723**

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 1:32:51 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/4/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

IN SUPPORT. tHANK YOU