

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
COLONEL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1234 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY
MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL AND DIRECTOR OF STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, and Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee.

I am Major General Kenneth S. Hara, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1234 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Department of Defense which supports SB1234, Authorizing the 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.

SB1234 clarifies the use of CARES ACT funds by including the purchase of industrial hygiene products and further allows state departments and attached agencies to receive personal protective equipment and industrial hygiene products.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB1234. If you have any questions or need additional information to our response, please contact our administrative services officer Rusty Spray at (808) 330-7744 or at rusty.spray@hawaii.gov



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

Date: 02/26/2021

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 1234, SD1 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, industrial hygiene products, and coronavirus disease 2019 tests to state departments and attached agencies. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 1234, HD1.

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 industrial hygiene 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 dedicated funding for PPE and industrial hygiene products and the addition of the provision authorizing the purchase of COVID-19 testing kits for Hawaii's public schools. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1234, HD1.

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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

**TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
February 26, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

**SENATE BILL 1234, SD1
RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB1234, SD1. 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 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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 shields, 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.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 26, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Via Videoconference

**Testimony in Strong Support of Senate Bill 1234, SD1
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 S.B. 1234**, SD1.

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.

3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-4020 • FAX: (808) 733-4028

HILO • HONOKAA • KAU • KONA • KOHALA • WAIMEA • KAPAA • HONOLULU
www.hhsc.org



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 26, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 1234, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the 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** Senate Bill No. 1234, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would clarify that the amount 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:

- (1) For the purchase of industrial hygiene products;
- (2) For COVID-19 testing; and
- (3) By all State departments and attached agencies.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion.

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.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 1234, Senate Draft 1
Friday, February 26, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
Page 2

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.

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@hawaiipca.net.