



February 5, 2018

To: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: **Strong Opposition for HB2622**

Hrg: February 6, 2018 at 8:30am at Capitol Room 329

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly opposes HB2622 which will add costly, burdensome, and unnecessary hurdles against making certain that all persons are vaccinated against dangerous vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines are life-saving measures and any formidable steps that add burden to the family or individual will reduce immunization coverage levels and put everyone at risk for these diseases. With recent outbreaks in hepatitis A, mumps, and flu in Hawaii, many of us have witnessed firsthand the harmful effects on the health and economy of Hawaii when the community is not appropriately vaccinated.

Furthermore, this bill also does not take into consideration the important points below:

- The federal Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) requirement already ensures relevant information regarding vaccinations is provided to individuals and parents/guardians prior to vaccination. Providing a VIS for each vaccine administered is standard and accepted procedure in all vaccine-administration settings.
- Package inserts are not written in a manner that can be easily understood by a layperson. It is grossly impractical in a medical office or pharmacy setting to provide package inserts to patients. Many inserts can be between 25 and 36 pages of technical language. They are meant to be read by medical professionals.
- This would add an additional burden in terms of time, costs, and capacity for our healthcare providers, especially pediatricians.
- "Informed consent" is under the scope of the Hawaii Medical Board per [HRS 671-3](#) and applies to a "proposed medical or surgical treatment or a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure" – none of which accurately describe immunizations.

For these reasons, we ask that **you oppose this bill**. It is a detriment and danger to the health and well-being of our families and communities in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Holly Kessler'.

Holly Kessler, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Health Association