

The HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee

Mission Statement: To improve public health issues in Hawaii, guided by the expertise of HPHA members, by providing informed & evidence-based legislative testimony and providing a voice on key initiatives in policy and various legislative efforts.

Committee By-Laws

The Committee shall review current proposed Federal, County, and State legislation and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for potential action.

- A. The Committee shall make recommendations relative to needed public health legislation in the State of Hawaii to the Board of Directors for appropriate action.
- B. The Committee may provide written and oral testimony in support or opposition of any bill, as recommended in clause A or B of this section, provided that a majority of the Board of Directors give consent.
- C. The Committee shall have at least one member who also serves as a Board Member of the Association.

Guidelines for HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Actions

1. Issues/positions qualify as “HPHA-endorsed” when they are supported by a majority of the HPHA Board. Approval from at least 2 Board Officers is needed on items that require immediate response.
2. Upon determination of HPHA’s position on an issue, written testimony for legislature will be completed. Oral testimony to support written testimony is preferable whenever possible; oral testimony alone will not suffice.
3. Preparing testimony is the responsibility of “Issue Leads” who will research the issue and draft findings into testimony. Testimony will be written after reviewing the most current legislative language, (including all committee reports, recent bill versions, and hearing notices) and related APHA/HPHA affiliate policies.
4. Testimony will be written to include the following: (i) the most recent bill number; (ii) brief description of the issue; (iii) reason why HPHA is advocating for this issue; (iv) statement of the recommended position; (v) evidence-based rationale that supports the position taken by the testimony and (vi) addenda, if necessary (i.e. committee report updates

and bill amendments). The final draft will be submitted to the Hawaii State Legislature on HPHA letterhead.

5. All HPHA endorsed testimony will be submitted for final approval to the HPHA Legislative Committee Chair first, and if that person is not available, will be submitted to the acting HPHA Executive Director.

6. Testimony drafts should be submitted to the HPHA Committee Chair at least 48 hours before the hearing is scheduled. The HPHA Committee Chair needs a minimum of 24 hours to edit the testimony before submitting it to the Hawaii State Legislature (via their website).

7. Testimony on issues that are “active” in the legislative process will not need re-approval, unless there are significant changes to a bill. New issues arising during the mid-legislative term are subject for majority BOD approval if they are outside the scope of the current year’s Committee priorities.

8. Oral testimony can be presented to the legislature by the Issue Lead, a Committee Member, or Board Member. Individuals presenting testimony must be familiar with the argument made in the written version, and be prepared to answer questions posed by the legislature. The presenter must also be prepared to represent HPHA when testifying. If individual is representing 2 agencies during the same hearing, it must be clearly addressed to the legislators (public “wearing of 2 hats” or dual representation is not acceptable).

9. Bill tracking on all approved testimonies will be done by the Committee (this can also be accomplished with assistance, such as LegTrax).

10. All testimony approved by the HPHA and the Board will be posted on the HPHA website for membership review and feedback.

11. The Committee will follow all HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Guidelines in researching, preparing, and delivering testimony on any bill.

12. Submitted testimony confirmations shall be copied to HPHA President, Vice President and Executive Director.