



January 28, 2024

To: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair
Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair
Committee Members

Re: SUPPORT of HB2087 - Relating to the Executive Office on Aging

Hrg: Tuesday, Jan 30, 2024, 9:00 AM

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy. Additionally, HPHA aims to call attention to issues around social justice and equity in areas that extend beyond the traditional context of health (e.g., education, digital equity, cultural sensitivity), which can have profound impacts on health equity and well-being. Therefore, as stewards of public health, HPHA is also advocating for equity in all policies.

HPHA supports HB2087 as the bill aims to establish a two-year senior access pilot program in the Executive Office on Aging to improve access to essential services and reduce wait times for seniors seeking public services through state and county government offices. The pilot program shall work with state and county government offices that offer public services to create dedicated priority lanes, priority online scheduling, or dedicated priority phone lines for persons sixty-five years of age or older.

With the growing increase in the State's senior population, this measure would address senior residents who often face unique challenges when accessing services, including mobility issues, hearing impairments, and limited technological proficiency. Additionally, seniors are often disproportionately impacted by long wait times for services, leading to frustration, anxiety, and delayed access to essential care.

HPHA strongly supports HB2087 and respectfully asks that you pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important public health issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Kessler
Executive Director