



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB246
RELATING TO STATE LICENSED CARE FACILITIES**

REP. GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 5, 2025 9:30 am Room Number: 320

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of HB246 but
2 recommends deferral due to similar activities already in progress.

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4 The Department has contracted with a local vendor to develop a portal for public viewing of
5 state-licensed facility and inspection information. The portal will contain live data and will be
6 updated continuously. It is our intent to have this capability by end of year 2025, therefore this
7 bill is not necessary.

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9 If this bill will still move forward, the Department recommends amendments that increase the
10 five-day posting requirement to a ten-day posting requirement once information has been
11 received by the Department. The current proposal of a five-day turnaround is not enough time for
12 the Department to update its current system which is archaic and as such creates a burden on
13 Departmental resources.

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15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

16
17 **Offered Amendments:**

18 Page 4, Lines 16 – 18

1 The list shall be provided in a searchable and sortable format
2 that is easily understandable by the public. The list shall be
3 updated within [~~five~~] ten days of [~~any change in its~~
4 ~~information.~~] the department receiving and verifying the
5 information.

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February 5, 2025 at 9:30 am
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Chair Gregg Takayama
Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
AVP, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Comments**
HB 213, Relating to State Licensed Care Facilities

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, and assisted living facilities. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing more than 30,000 people statewide.

We would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide **comments** on this measure, which seeks to require the Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA) to maintain a searchable, online list of all state-licensed care facilities to provide information on licensing details, inspection dates, and any other information deemed to be appropriate. Further, the measure would require these lists to be updated within five days of any changes made to any of the relevant information.

Ensuring that patients and their loved ones have information regarding services—especially for decisions as important as long-term care—is of utmost importance. Our member facilities take licensing surveys extremely seriously and understand that information regarding those surveys and any relevant quality metrics are made public on both state and federal sites. A concern with this measure, however, is the need to post this information within five days. Facilities are provided time to dispute any citations in a survey and may appeal any findings. Posting reports with findings that are eventually removed could create confusion for consumers and also add to OHCA's burden of constantly updating their website to reflect the most recent information available.

We appreciate the legislature's commitment to transparency and high-quality care for all residents, and for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.