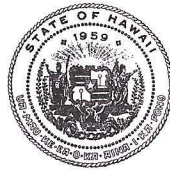


LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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Testimony Commenting on HCR 145

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A FAMILY CAREGIVERS WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE AND ASSESS LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE ROLE OF CAREGIVERS OF PATIENTS DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITALS.

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

Hearing Date: Thursday, April 16, 2015 Room Number: 016

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health recommends amendments identical to SCR
2 107 SD1.

3 During the 2014 legislative session, HCR 78 was passed that requested DOH to convene
4 a new Working Group to study the similar subject matter contained in this resolution and to
5 submit a report to the 2015 Legislature. DOH was a member of the Working Group. The
6 department feels that the process established by the legislature to request a Working Group study
7 and report and for the legislature to review the report should continue to be followed. This will
8 help to ensure the integrity of the prior legislatively-requested process and help to maintain the
9 public's trust. The HCR 78 SLH 2014 report was submitted to the legislature via the
10 department's internal process on March 20, 2015, following the Group's final meeting on
11 January 12, 2015, and following subsequent revisions at the request of the Group's co-chairs.
12 The entire report was submitted to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House by the
13 Governor's Office in early April 2015.

1 The department recommends the legislature review the Working Group's report in its
2 entirety and consider all its findings, conclusions, and recommendations before proceeding on
3 this resolution. For example, the draft report identifies five recommendations based on twenty
4 findings. Contrary to the claim of the 9th whereas contained in this resolution, four of the
5 recommendations were unanimously agreed upon by the Working Group, and a small minority
6 disagreed on the other recommendation. By examining the report, the legislature could find that
7 the recommendations could be a more prudent next step.

8 As a result, the department hopes these comments provide your committee and the
9 legislature with a prudent rationale for the need to review the Working Group's report in its
10 entirety as part of its careful deliberation on HCR 145. However, if the legislature wishes to
11 pursue a new working group pursuant to HCR 145, the department requests the legislature find
12 another agency such as the Legislative Reference Bureau to provide administrative support to the
13 co-chairs, including drafting and writing the final report for submittal to the 2015 legislature.
14 Due to other pressing priorities the Department does not currently have the resources to provide
15 administrative and logistical support to the co-chairs of the Family Caregivers Working Group
16 and prepare and draft any new reports produced by the Family Caregivers Working Group.

17 Further, the legislature should consider holding an informational briefing relating to the
18 HCR 78, SLH 2014 to gather information from stake holders since HCR 145 would not allow the
19 participants of the new working group to vote on any findings or recommendations thereby
20 making a new working group unnecessary.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to provide Comments on HCR 145.

THE SENATE
Committee on Human Services and Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Thursday, April 16, 2015; 1:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.C.R. 145
REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A FAMILY CAREGIVERS
WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE AND ASSESS
LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE ROLE OF CAREGIVERS
OF PATIENTS DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITALS**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.C.R. 145 for another working group to be convened to address the role of family caregivers when patients are discharged from the hospital.

The first working group convened last year to address this issue could not arrive at consensus on the issues. Nevertheless, S.B. 296 was introduced this session to address the issue and included language to exempt hospitals from liability, which had been a major concern for the hospitals. However, hospital representatives were not appeased and vehemently testified in opposition to S.B. 296, resulting in deferral of the measure.

H.C.R. 145 is another attempt at discussion of the issue, hopefully this time with more balanced representation from hospital representatives and caregiver advocates and with a better outcome.

If liability is the main concern for hospitals, we remind them that they may be open to lawsuits whenever something goes wrong—whether they are at fault or not. Furthermore, hospitals risk penalties from the federal Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program when patients fare poorly due to inadequate care at home and must be readmitted to the hospital. It is in the hospitals' best interest to provide as much assistance as possible to family caregivers to ensure that patients are not readmitted and may be cared for in their own homes. Alternative institutionalization will be far more costly to the patients, their families, and taxpayers.

The ILWU urges passage of H.C.R. 145 and convening of another working group. Thank you for considering our views and concerns.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 4:25 PM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: deborah.stone-walls@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR145 on Apr 16, 2015 13:30PM*

Categories: Red category

HCR145

Submitted on: 4/15/2015

Testimony for HSH on Apr 16, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Stone-Walls	Maui County Office on Aging	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)
An Affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans
1953 South Beretania Street, Suite 5C, Honolulu, HI 96826

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Human Services and Housing Committee
The Senate, State of Hawaii

FROM: John M. Hayakawa, Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)

SUBJECT: **Testimony in favor of HCR 145**

DATE: Wednesday, April 15, 2015

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) strongly supports HCR 145 to establish a working group to examine and assess legislation relating to the role of caregivers of patients discharged from hospitals.

Since most discharged hospital patients need follow up care at home, it is important that caregivers are prepared for this task. Unfortunately, most families are not prepared for this sudden critical demand. Few caregiving families are either properly trained or equipped to provide this aftercare. The gap between the highly trained professionals in the hospital setting and the home situation is significant.

HCR 145 is an appropriate first step in addressing the problem. A working group headed by co-chairs appointed by the House and Senate with broad community representation to present recommendations to the legislature would address the concerns of the hospital as well as the community sectors.

HARA urges the Health Committee to adopt **House Concurrent Resolution 145**.

Sincerely, John M. Hayakawa, Legislative Committee, Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)