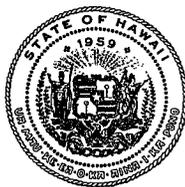


SB 519



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SB0519, RELATING TO SAFE PATIENT HANDLING PROTOCOL

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

**February 11, 2009
3:00 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The department appreciates the intent of this bill, but must respectfully oppose
2 it as currently drafted.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Unquantified but no funding is available for staff time to develop rules for the
4 implementation of this measure, to monitor annual reports submitted by hospitals, to provide training to
5 department surveyors on work-related ergonomic guidelines, and to investigate violations or suspected
6 violations.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** Current state licensing regulations for hospitals are in place aimed at
8 preventing injuries to patients while being lifted or moved by hospital employees (HAR Title 11 Chapter
9 93). Under these rules, hospitals are required to have written policies and procedures for moving
10 patients in a safe manner, an ongoing quality assurance program to review and evaluate injuries, and
11 annual staff training for accident prevention. The safety of hospital employees is regulated exclusively
12 by the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relation Occupational Health and Safety Division as
13 mandated by the federal government. The Joint Commission (the national accreditation body for
14 hospitals) also includes standards to ensure that hospitals manage safety risks and provide for a safe
15 working environment of care. Hospitals and other facilities are cognizant of the need to safeguard

1 worker safety since there is a shortage of qualified nurses and other skilled workers. To risk injury
2 would be to risk staffing shortages and increase the cost of care to the facility.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair
HEALTH COMMITTEE

From: Cynthia Kamikawa, MSN, RN, NE-BC
Vice President Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer

Date: February 9, 2009

Subject: **In Opposition to Senate Bill 519, Safe Patient Handling Protocol**

My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President, Nursing, ED and Chief Nursing Officer at The Queen's Medical Center. Due to our extensive, ongoing and thorough efforts to keep our health care workers as safe from on-the-job injury as possible, we feel that SB 519 is unnecessary.

Protecting our employees is something we take very seriously, for without health care workers in good health and working condition, our ability to treat patients would be impossible. Queen's has established a coherent set of procedures that are specifically intended to assist and protect our employees when they move, lift or transport patients in a way that ensures both their safety and safe handling of our patients. Queen's has made a significant investment in this area, purchasing many types of lift equipment, such as full body lifts, cardiac chairs, HoverMatts, bariatric lifts, ceiling lifts, stand-assist lifts and more. Since 2002, more than 450 individuals have attended Queen's "Transfer Training" courses, which we designed to ensure our employees are fully aware of the proper techniques, equipment, and procedures for safe-handling of all types of patients.

SB 519 would add another level of regulation and require the reporting of practices that are already firmly engrained at our hospital. While Queen's supports the intent of SB 519, we believe that it is unnecessary and burdensome because of the programs and support for our workers already in place. We urge you to defer SB 519.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cindy Kamikawa, RN, MS, NE-BC
Vice President, Nursing, ED, and Chief Nursing Officer
The Queen's Medical Center