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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

S.B. 2931, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

February 4, 2010; 2:45 p.m.

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) opposes passage of this measure.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** No funds are appropriated; however, significant staffing and operating costs
- 3 would be incurred to implement the provisions of this proposal which must be accomplished at current
- 4 staffing levels.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure adds a new section to Chapter 334, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
- 6 requiring the Department of Health to develop a four-year state plan reflecting plans relating to mental
- 7 health and substance abuse service delivery in each geographic service area and specifically highlighting
- 8 special populations. The bill also requires the state council on mental health and substance abuse to
- 9 review and comment on the plan. It directs the Department to submit a draft of the plan to the
- 10 Legislature no later than twenty days prior the convening of the Regular Session of 2011.
- 11 The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD), Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) and
- 12 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) develop plans under the guidance of the U.S.
- 13 Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

1 Administration. These plans are meant to assure that the states adhere to evidence-based practices that
2 contribute toward optimal outcomes for the persons served.

3 In the United States Code, Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, Subchapter I, Block Grants
4 for Community Mental Health Services, Public Law 102-321, Section 300x, the Federal Government
5 requires states to develop an annual statewide mental health services plan for children and adults.
6 Further, it is anticipated that the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block
7 Grant will require states to develop and submit a Three-Year Plan (Fiscal Years 2011-2013) as a
8 requirement to continue receiving SAPT Block Grant funding. While the primary intent of the plan is to
9 describe the use of federal funds, states are encouraged to incorporate other information on needs
10 assessment, resource availability and other state priorities in the plan. ADAD intends to develop the
11 required Three-Year Plan, which will serve as the Division's overall state plan. ADAD has also
12 generated periodic reports that provide a comprehensive description of the substance abuse treatment
13 continuum that is supported by Division resources (both State and federal funds). Currently, two reports
14 have been developed "Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services 2000/2003/2006" and "Alcohol and Drug
15 Treatment Services Report Hawaii, 2000-2008".

16 While we agree that comprehensive state plans are a necessary tool to guide agencies and
17 organizations, we also feel that the proposed four-year state plan required in this measure may not be
18 necessary as the anticipated federal requirements for plans are expected to address many of the issues
19 identified in this measure.

20 The formation of task forces and working groups do bear financial costs to the Divisions as
21 staffing and operating costs must be absorbed within the lead agency's limited budget. As with any
22 other publicly-convened activity, the focus and priorities for pursuing planning activities must be clearly
23 established so that a broad public health focus is maintained rather than catering to narrow interests or
24 agendas.

1 We respectfully recommend that this measure be held.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.