HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PAIN AND PALLIATIVE CARE POLICY.

WHEREAS, inadequate treatment of severe acute pain and severe chronic pain originating from cancer or noncancerous conditions is a significant health problem; and

WHEREAS, for some patients, pain management is the single most important treatment a physician can provide; and

WHEREAS, a patient who suffers from severe acute pain or severe chronic pain should have access to proper treatment of pain; and

WHEREAS, due to the complexity of their problems, many patients who suffer from severe acute pain or severe chronic pain may require referral to a physician with expertise in the treatment of severe acute pain and severe chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, severe acute pain and severe chronic pain is best treated by a team of clinicians to address the associated physical, psychological, social, and vocational issues; and

WHEREAS, in the hands of knowledgeable, ethical, and experienced pain management practitioners, opiates administered for severe acute pain or severe chronic pain can be safe; and

WHEREAS, opiates may be part of an overall treatment plan for a patient in severe acute pain or severe chronic pain who has not obtained relief from any other means of pain management; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session

H.R. NO. 48

of 2011, that the Hawaii State Board of Nursing is requested to develop and implement a pain and palliative care policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Board of Nursing shall report to this body on the development and implementation of a pain and palliative care policy no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaii State Board of Nursing.

OFFERED BY:

FEB 1 7 2011