

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony to the
House Committee on Judiciary

April 7, 2011
2:00 pm
Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

HCR 195 and HR 169

Affirming the intent of the Legislature that amendments to the State Health Services and Facilities Plan be done through the public hearing process

Good morning Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary. My name is Marilyn A. Matsunaga. In the past, I served the State of Hawaii for eight years as the Administrator of the State Health Planning and Development Agency. While my tenure has passed, I still continue to be involved in the healthcare industry assisting patients, providers and corporate clients.

I am here to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of resolutions which affirm the historical intent of the Legislature when it created the Health Services and Facilities Plan. They are resolutions, not bills, affirming the historical intention of the Legislature.

Through these resolutions, the Legislature stands by its commitment established in 1976 to transparency in state regulatory health matters.

Back in 1976, the Legislature established health planning as a function of the State via Act 152 and that the Act said "to ensure the pragmatic health planning of the State by providing a permanent vehicle for citizen input into the health planning process, so that the total health services plan of the State will be based on informed decision-making."

The tangible incarnation of Act 152 is the Health Services and Facilities Plan (HSFP). The HSFP implements, interprets and prescribes the health care policies and laws first established in Act 152. The HSFP is the sole policy document which statute says "shall address the health care needs of the State, including inpatient care, health care facilities, and special needs." It is the policy document that drives the certificate of need regulatory program.

Transparency in government activities is crucial to our democracy and these resolutions affirm the historical intent of the Legislature for the Health Services and Facilities Plan.

Thank you for affirming the Legislature's commitment to open meetings in the discussions and deliberations of Hawaii's health care policy document, the Health Services and Facilities Plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.