

LATE TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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*Written Only
Late*

LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

HB 1953, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

Monday, February 27, 2012, 2pm

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this measure provided that it
2 does not reduce or replace priorities within our Supplemental Budget Request.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates \$1.2 million dollars for pre-hospital emergency medical services on
4 Oahu and \$500,000 for Wahiawa General Hospital for emergency room services.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health is collaborating with the City and County of
6 Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Division, American Medical Response, the Healthcare
7 Association of Hawaii, and Oahu hospitals and providers of urgent care services to address the closure
8 in December of two acute care hospitals on Oahu. All have come forward with creative and
9 collaborative efforts to minimize negative impacts on patients and the community. The additional
10 services needed to continue to compensate for the loss of these hospitals is costly, but we are not
11 prepared to suggest a specific dollar amount.

12 The Department recommends that the Committee consider not specifying exact location and
13 hours of specific ambulance units to be implemented with additional funding. Flexibility in determining
14 the location and hours of operation of additional ambulance or response units, will allow for the most
15 efficient and effective use of these resources.

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