



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 7, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services  
  
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1429 - RELATING TO HEALTH**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 12, 2013; 11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H. B. 1429 is to require the Department of Health and Department of Human Services to maintain an inventory of all community-based care facilities licensed or certified under their jurisdiction and their vacancies to facilitate the placement of individuals in community-based facilities.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) defers to the Department of Health (DOH) regarding Sections 2 and 3 of this bill which pertains to facilities under DOH's jurisdiction.

The DHS would like to provide comments on Section 4 of this bill. Since June 1, 2009, the DHS has been posting Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH) vacancies on it's website at:

**[http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/ssd/files/2013/01/Latest-CCFFH-Vacancy-](http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/ssd/files/2013/01/Latest-CCFFH-Vacancy-Report.xls)**

**Report.xls.** The site has a disclaimer as follows: "CCFFH vacancies presented on this

website are reported to DHS by the CCFFHs and are not verified by DHS.” The DHS has no way of tracking whether or not a CCFFH has reported vacancies or filled a vacancy unless the CCFFH reports this information. Information on vacancies is reported to Community Ties of America (CTA), DHS’ designee for the certification of the CCFFHs and the licensing of case management agencies. The list is updated by CTA, and transmitted to the DHS two times a month. The DHS then puts these lists on the DHS website.

The DHS does not see any need for this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Health**

**HB 1429, Relating to Health**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.**  
**Director of Health**  
**February 12, 2013**

1 **Department's Position:** Oppose

2 **Fiscal Implications:** If passed, this bill would require as many as 7 additional staff costing over  
3 \$200,000 per year plus the need for more office space, office and computer equipment, the cost of  
4 website design and maintenance, and the cost of enforcement.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill would require the department to maintain an up to date inventory  
6 list of vacant beds by facility on the department's website for purposes of expediting patient placement.  
7 It would also require facilities to report vacancies on an unidentified "regular basis". However, to be of  
8 minimal value vacancy reports would be required on a daily basis since patient placements are sought  
9 each day. There are approximately 662 impacted facilities which could submit daily reports. This  
10 would require a sizeable increase in staff and associated costs to accept, process and post the vacancy  
11 information. However, the information could become outdated moments after it is received since  
12 patients could be placed by facilities without using the State's inventory list. As a result the  
13 questionable accuracy of such a vacancy inventory system would rapidly render it ineffective and  
14 useless. State resources would be better spent elsewhere. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013**

**Committee on Human Services  
Committee on Health  
Testimony in Support of H.B. 1429  
Relating to Health**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 11:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 329**

Chair Carroll, Chair Belatti and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center testifies in support of this bill.

There have been many pieces of legislation over the past several sessions which address the issue of the capacity within our state to provide community based residential settings. There are bills to increase reimbursement to providers and bills to expand the number of beds allowed in care homes. Building of community-based capacity is extremely important.

However, growth in capacity will only exacerbate the logistical problem of locating an available home or bed. One of the main problems encountered in representing clients who are seeking community placement is either not knowing which operators have vacancies in their homes, or simply encountering tremendous logistical obstacles in attempting to locate vacant beds. The process is frequently labor intensive and involves literally calling individual care homes or individual case management agencies until a vacancy is located. State social workers and case managers, as well as those employed by private agencies, expend many, many hours making these calls, attempting to locate a suitable, vacant bed for their clients.

If there were a central registry, (a clearinghouse or a single point of entry) with up-to-date information on vacancies, it would greatly facilitate and expedite and streamline the process of placing individuals into community residences. If maintained, this inventory will eliminate the wasted search hours expended by social workers and case managers and will significantly shorten the time any given client is waiting for a community placement (often while occupying an expensive hospital bed, or mainland facility bed). These savings will more than offset any cost incurred in implementing and maintaining the inventory.

The inventory, or single point of entry, will benefit clients and case managers alike; it will prove to be an invaluable tool as the state moves forward with its efforts to implement an Olmstead Plan. We urge the Committees to look favorably upon this bill and pass it out.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.