

Testimony for the Senate Health Committee by Chris McLachlin in SUPPORT of
HB 589, HD1 "Relating To Stroke"

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Health Committee, I am here to ask for your support of HB 589, HD1. I am here as a stroke survivor.

In January 2008 I suffered what could have been a debilitating stroke while visiting friends in the San Francisco Bay area. I initially suffered complete paralysis on the right side of my body, lost my ability to speak, and had I not received immediate and quality care, I might not have survived. I was lucky.

The friends that I was visiting at the time of the stroke's onset immediately recognized the warning signs and called 9-1-1. Within a short time, EMS personnel arrived at their home, confirmed that I was having a stroke and immediately began medical treatment and transported me to the Kaiser Redwood City Medical Center, a top stroke center which was nearby. There, doctors quickly assessed my condition and determined through testing that I was eligible to receive what still remains the only FDA-approved treatment for ischemic stroke, tPA, a clot-busting drug. Within a day of receiving the drug, most of my body functions returned to near normal. Again, I was lucky. Stroke is the 5th leading cause of death in the U.S. (it remains the 3rd leading cause of death in Hawaii, something that HB 589 will help to improve) and the leading cause of major disability.

Many of you may recognize me from my role as a color announcer on UH men's and women's volleyball broadcasts. Had I not been where I was when I had my stroke, my career, if not my life as I knew it, may have ended that day. In Hawaii, the type and quality of care that you might receive if you suffer a stroke might vary greatly depending on whether you are on Oahu or a neighbor island, if you were near a major medical center, or if you are in a rural area.

HB 589 aims to raise the quality of care for all stroke patients in Hawaii, and where possible eliminate the disparities that currently exist in care. It will do that by allowing for the collection and sharing of stroke data that will allow hospital, EMS and other experts in our state to share and work together to use that data to identify areas for improvement in our state's stroke system of care. It will allow for the Department of Health and community partners to use the data to identify where more public education might be needed to increase awareness of stroke warning signs and how to respond to them quickly. The changes that will result from the acquisition and use of stroke data will save lives and improve outcomes for stroke patients, just as it did for me when I had my stroke in California.

Hawaii patients deserve the best care that can be provided. I ask that you support HB 589 to allow for the collection and use of data that will support improvements in our state's stroke system of care and help to give all Hawaii patients the opportunity that I had to survive and have many more quality years with my family and with the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to address this important issue, and to ask for your support of this bill.

Respectfully yours,

Chris McLachlin

From: [Edward Peskin, MD](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: support for HB589 with amendments for Senate Committee on Health Hearing Weds 3/18/15
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:39:27 PM

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

HB589 with the amendments recommended by Dr. Matthew Koenig is an excellent bill which will advance stroke care in Hawaii. Hilo Medical Center has been a strong proponent for comprehensive stroke care because the Big Island and rural Hawaii have very high stroke incidence. We have been working with Dr. Koenig's stroke coalition and have already been collecting the data required under this bill. We do not anticipate any increased costs or administrative burdens from this bill and feel that it will help all hospitals in Hawaii to work collaboratively with the Dept of Health to improve stroke care in Hawaii.

I recommend that you pass this bill with Dr. Koenig's recommended amendments.

Thank you.

Ted Peskin,MD

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