

# SCR106

**Measure Title:** RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII, AND THE THIRTEENTH DAY IN SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS HAWAII SEPSIS DAY.

**Report Title:** Sepsis Awareness Month; Hawaii Sepsis Day

**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** CPH

**Introducer(s):** GREEN



**April 4, 2016 at 10:30 AM**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker  
Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani

From: George Greene  
President and CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**SCR 106, Recognizing the Month of September as Sepsis Awareness Month in Hawaii, and the Thirteenth Day in September of Every Year as Hawaii Sepsis Day**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 180 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** SCR 106. This legislation would recognize September as Sepsis Awareness Month, and the thirteenth of September of every year as Hawaii Sepsis Day. We believe that this recognition could help to raise awareness of this issue. Our members and our organization are working diligently on this issue and we appreciate initiatives that complement those efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Date : April 4, 2016, 10:30 am, Room 230

To : Sen. Roz Baker, Chair  
Sen. Michele Kidani, V. Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

From : Barbara Marumoto  
Patty Rohlifing Memorial Committee

Re SCR 106 - RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS SEPSIS  
AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII, AND THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER AS  
HAWAII SEPSIS DAY. IN SUPPORT

By calling for a Sepsis Awareness Month and a Sepsis Day once a year, many more medical personnel as well as members of the public will learn about the seriousness of this condition and the need for its immediate diagnosis and treatment. Education and awareness will save many lives.

Please pass this Senate Concurrent Resolution. It is an important piece of legislation. The members of the Patty Rohlifing Memorial Committee and friends and families of other victims thank you.

To: Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Date: April 4, 2016

Place: Conference Room 229

**Testimony in Strong Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 106** by Fred Rohlfsing, former state Senator & Representative and the Patty Rohlfsing Memorial Committee before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Aloha chair Rosalyn Baker and committee members

It was at the end of 2011. My wife, Patty and I came for family Christmas dinner on O'ahu at the Wong's on Tantalus. Soon, rather than hustling Hors d'oeuvres we were trying to decide which hospital was the best for Patty and a several day persistent abdominal pain. That led us to go to Kapiolani (closer, smaller, specializes in women), We resisted discharge in the middle of the night but were pushed out the door at about 4 am. and returned to our hotel in Waikiki, The following morning we took her to a clinic in Kapahulu but they couldn't handle what was going on and she was soon on the way to Queen's, but WAIT!! , Queen's wasn't taking any more emergency patients so we landed at Kuakini.

No matter how hard she tried, the young Asian woman physician at Kuakini was unable to stem the tide of sepsis.

Human error, holiday numbers, hospital limitations the steady march of infection all took their share of the toll but she died of SEPTIC SHOCK. It was a disease that I had never heard of before.

Today you have the opportunity to take steps that will save others from a similar fate.

Today sepsis is receiving the attention it must for new deaths to be avoided. Here at home we recently had a demonstration of sepsis effects with the death of a young Honolulu policeman named Jeff who was head of a nice family of wife and two young boys. He was well liked in work and play. Becky will tell you some more.

In other sessions we have offered a range of approaches to improved service and vision in Emergency Rooms of the state. We have yet to succeed but that means you are not succeeding either. Only the task force resolution has produced some direction, but the report never was approved by a vote so p revisions have no binding force.

It would be our conclusion that now is the time to go after sepsis...and go HARD.

Further delay is unconscionable.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [romala@yahoo.com](mailto:romala@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR106 on Apr 4, 2016 10:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, April 01, 2016 2:50:52 PM

---

## **SCR106**

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for CPH on Apr 4, 2016 10:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Romala Radcliffe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Awareness is key. Our best defense against sepsis is limiting exposure to infections by washing our hands thoroughly and frequently. Those most vulnerable to sepsis include individuals who are receiving medical treatment, such as long-term steroids that weakens their immune system, those having a long-term health condition such as diabetes, recovering from surgery, have wounds or injuries as a result of an accident, or who have IV ports or catheters. If not treated quickly, sepsis can lead to multiple organ failure and death. Sepsis is a potentially life-threatening complication of an infection. Anyone can develop sepsis, but it's most common and most dangerous in older adults and those with weakened immune systems. It is important for everyone to be aware of how sepsis occurs. Awareness is key. We must remember to wash our hands. In 2011, sepsis was the most expensive condition treated in U.S. hospitals. Treatment was at an aggregated cost of \$20.3 billion. As more very frail and at-risk people are treated in our hospitals, and as acute care becomes more aggressive, the detection of sepsis is increasingly important.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**George S. Massengale**  
**4300 Waialae Avenue, Apt. A803**  
**Honolulu, HI 96816**  
**808-271-9296**  
**honolulujd@gmail.com**

---

March 31, 2016

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Re: SCR106  
Date: April 4, 2016  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 229

### **Testimony in Support**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health. I am here today to offer this testimony in support of SCR106 and to support my close friend, Fredrick Rohlfing. SCR106 if passed would recognize September as Sepsis Awareness Month and the thirteenth day in September as Hawaii Sepsis Day.

In 2011, The Sepsis Alliance recognized that more attention could be drawn to sepsis and sepsis awareness if there was a specific month dedicated to the cause. While efforts towards education for both the public and healthcare professionals are maintained throughout the year, having a dedicated Sepsis Awareness Month allows for organizations and facilities to organize activities for their staff, and for Sepsis Alliance supporters to make a concentrated effort on spreading information about sepsis.

During the following year 2012, the Global Sepsis Alliance, of which Sepsis Alliance is a founding member, declared September 13th to be World Sepsis Day. This one day brings together people in health care and members of the public to recognize that sepsis is a global problem.

Septicemia is an insidious "equal opportunity disease" like cancer it affects the young and old, male and female, republicans and democrats, the rich and poor, the famous -- Patty Duke, and the not so famous. It does not discriminate. It can start with any kind of infection, be it a cut on your arm, or an infection of the lungs, like pneumonia. The infection can rapidly spread throughout the body, shutting down organs and doing damage to muscle and tissue.

Septicemia is often misdiagnosed and once diagnosed it is often too far along to be effectively treated with antibiotics. Also the mortality rate for patients hospitalized with sepsis is more than eight times as likely to die.

In November 2015, statistical brief from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Nationwide Readmissions Database (NRD). This HCUP Statistical Brief, Trends in Hospital Readmissions for Four High-Volume Conditions, 2009-2013, found that "sepsis as being responsible for the most readmissions to a hospital within 30 days after a hospital visit. The life-threatening and often misunderstood condition is also the most expensive diagnosis, leading to readmissions costing more than \$3.1 billion per year."

In the past the legislature has recognized numerous awareness months; February as Heart Month, March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, May as Asthma Awareness Month, and this month – April is Tsunami Awareness Month. A month and a day dedicated to Sepsis, will shine a light on one of the least understood and deadly medical conditions facing our people today.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you today.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Massengale', with a stylized, cursive script.

George S. Massengale





To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
From: Becky Gardner  
Re: Testimony in Support of: SCR106– SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH  
Hearing: April 4, 2016 – Room 229 10:30am

I am writing in strong support for the above-referenced resolution to increase SEPSIS AWARENESS in Hawaii.

My name is Becky Gardner. I wish to disclose that I am a state employee in an office that is administratively attached to the Department of Health. However, I submit this testimony not in my capacity as public servant, but as a concerned and interested resident of the State of Hawaii. Therefore, my testimony does not represent any views or position my office may or may not have. It is based upon my personal views alone.

Before 4 years ago, I had never heard of SEPSIS. This is remarkable since I grew up in a home of health care providers, one of whom was an emergency room nurse. However, many might be as surprised, as I was, to learn just how common it is. According to the Global Sepsis Alliance: “In the U.S., sepsis accounts for far more deaths than the number of deaths from prostate cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined.” <http://www.world-sepsis-day.org/?MET=SHOWCONTAINER&vCONTAINERID=11>

I first heard of sepsis when I learned of the death of Patty Rohlfing, loving wife of a dear friend – Fred Rohlfing, whom many of you know personally and/or politically for his contributions to this state and country as not only having served in this very legislature; but also as a federal judge; in the U.S. Navy; and on numerous state and county boards and commissions. Fred has been the engine behind many of the legislative proposals over the last few years regarding sepsis awareness and patient advocacy. Of particular note is SB666 during the 2013 Legislative Session. His testimony on that bill relates the details concerning his wife’s death, and is available here:

[http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2013/Testimony/SB666\\_TESTIMONY\\_HTH-JDL\\_02-06-13.pdf](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2013/Testimony/SB666_TESTIMONY_HTH-JDL_02-06-13.pdf)

What is compelling about his recount is the seemingly countless opportunities for the health care professionals, front line staff, friends, and/or family that were present during the sudden demise of Patty’s health, to have picked up on some of the warning signs, or taken a more cautionary approach to avoid or mitigate the damages of septic shock. Of course, no one can be held at fault for not recognizing something they didn’t have awareness of in the first place. Creating such awareness, which might have saved Patty’s life, is the objective of this measure.

A death due to Septic Shock has again recently impacted people close to me. On March 4, 2016, many grieved the loss of Jacob Reed – just 36 years old; an officer with the Honolulu

Police Department; loving and doting husband to Cheryl Reed; and loving, giving father of two young boys – Ethan (6) and Noah (3). Jake dedicated his life to protecting his community. He was young, healthy, fun, and a true friend to so many.

His death happened so suddenly, stemming from something so common - bronchitis and pneumonia. In a matter of a few days, his pneumonia resulted in the release of a bacterial infection that got into his bloodstream that put him into septic shock and quickly led to liver and kidney failure. More information about Jake can be read here:

[https://www.gofundme.com/a4s7cd8s?utm\\_source=internal&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=cta\\_button&utm\\_campaign=upd\\_n](https://www.gofundme.com/a4s7cd8s?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=email&utm_content=cta_button&utm_campaign=upd_n)

Could what happened to Jake have been prevented with greater awareness; an understanding of what the risk factors are; and an appreciation and dissemination of best practice guidelines? I imagine such efforts would've made a difference for Patty, and Jake, and to all the people who love them and were loved by them.

Just this last week, the world learned of another life taken by Sepsis. Patty Duke, famous for her role playing Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker" passed away due to septic shock from a ruptured intestine. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/judystone/2016/04/02/can-patty-dukes-death-help-prevent-other-sepsis-deaths/#327d0f42b7ba>

A simple google search for "Sepsis Awareness" brings up extensive material and resources that would help in our collective understanding and treatment. I therefore urge this committee to assist in our collective action to take full advantage of the work that's already done to understand and prevent sepsis. Perhaps the efforts made in a Sepsis Awareness Month and Day can manifest into concrete preventative action, early detection, and widespread knowledge of sepsis in Hawaii – and save lives.

Please pass this measure in honor of Patty Rohlfing, Jacob Reed, and countless others who have died or have been affected by Sepsis. Pass this measure in the spirit of prevention; to avoid great suffering; and to spare the lives of any one of us who may be afflicted with this condition.

Thank you.

Becky Gardner

KNOW THE SIGNS

# KNOW SEPSIS

S

SLURRED  
SPEECH

E

EXTREME  
SHIVERING  
OR MUSCLE  
PAIN

P

PASSING  
NO URINE  
(IN A DAY)

S

SEVERE  
BREATH-  
LESSNESS

I

"I FEEL  
LIKE I  
MIGHT DIE"

S

SKIN  
MOTTLED  
OR  
DISCOLORED

IN TREATING SEPSIS,  
**THE 1<sup>ST</sup> HOUR IS CRITICAL**  
**THE FIRST 24 CAN BE DECISIVE.**

Date : April 4, 2016, 10:30 am, Room 230

To : Sen. Roz Baker, Chair  
Sen. Michele Kidani, V. Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

From : Barbara Marumoto  
Patty Rohlifing Memorial Committee

Re SCR 106 - RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS SEPSIS  
AWARENESS MONTH IN HAWAII, AND THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER AS  
HAWAII SEPSIS DAY. IN SUPPORT

By calling for a Sepsis Awareness Month and a Sepsis Day once a year, many more medical personnel as well as members of the public will learn about the seriousness of this condition and the need for its immediate diagnosis and treatment. Education and awareness will save many lives.

Please pass this Senate Concurrent Resolution. It is an important piece of legislation. The members of the Patty Rohlifing Memorial Committee and friends and families of other victims thank you.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sanfordcheryl@gmail.com](mailto:sanfordcheryl@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR106 on Apr 4, 2016 10:30AM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, April 02, 2016 11:23:40 AM

---

**SCR106**

Submitted on: 4/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Apr 4, 2016 10:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl sanford	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [wibble39@yahoo.com](mailto:wibble39@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR106 on Apr 4, 2016 10:30AM  
**Date:** Saturday, April 02, 2016 7:32:18 PM

---

**SCR106**

Submitted on: 4/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Apr 4, 2016 10:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Daubner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: (In case the attachment did not go through) I knew and worked with Jacob Reed. Police officers are trained in CPR, identifying heart attacks, stroke, dehydration. I knew very little about Sepsis at the time of his passing, but if someone had been able to identify his symptoms earlier, he would be alive. I implore you to support this resolution that will bring awareness to this condition. Sincerely, William Daubner

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dylanarm@hawaii.edu](mailto:dylanarm@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR106 on Apr 4, 2016 10:30AM\*  
**Date:** Saturday, April 02, 2016 10:00:07 PM

---

**SCR106**

Submitted on: 4/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Apr 4, 2016 10:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)