



April 14, 2022

House Health, Human Services & Homelessness Committee
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SCR 197, SD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP PROTOCOLS FOR HOSPITALS IN THE STATE TO IMPROVE THE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE.

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam and members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness!

On behalf of Sutter Health Kāhi Mōhala, we are writing to comment on SCR 197, SD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP PROTOCOLS FOR HOSPITALS IN THE STATE TO IMPROVE THE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE.

Prior to the economic havoc and psychological stress factors related to the pandemic, Hawai'i already ranked last in the nation for access to care among adults with mental illness. Prior to this year and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we already knew that suicide is a significant public health problem in Hawaii as, on average, one person dies by suicide every two days.

We commend the legislature for all of the steps it has previously taken to address the mental health needs of our state. This resolution was amended to assure that input from hospitals, including Kāhi Mōhala, be required in the development of protocols to improve treatment for patients contemplating suicide. Our extensive work with mental health patients and deep bench of mental health professionals would benefit the state's efforts to establish such protocols.

Sutter Health Kāhi Mōhala is a not for profit licensed medical center located in Ewa Beach, exclusively specializing in behavioral health care for the people of Hawaii and throughout the Pacific Rim. Kāhi Mōhala embraces an interdisciplinary approach to services, incorporating an integrative perspective in emotional, physical, cognitive, and behavioral healthcare treatment. We are committed to serving the mental health needs of our community.

Mark Linscott
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Sutter Health Kāhi Mōhala