



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR18  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A HOSPICE WORKING GROUP TO  
EXAMINE TRENDS AND REGULATIONS IN THE HOSPICE INDUSTRY.**

REPRESENTATIVE CHIRS TODD, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date and Time: TUES., April 7, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** No impact to the Department of Health (Department).

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health, Office of Healthcare Assurance is in support  
3 of the intent of HCR 18, which requests the Hawai'i Department of Health to convene a working  
4 group to examine hospice services in the State.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health, Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA)  
6 provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department. OHCA supports efforts to  
7 ensure that hospice care in Hawai'i remains high-quality, patient-centered, and responsive to  
8 the needs of residents and their families. As demand for end-of-life care continues to grow, it is  
9 important that the State thoughtfully evaluates access, quality, and system capacity.

10 However, OHCA respectfully requests amendments to HCR 18 to remove references to  
11 "trends" and "industry reports" as a basis for the working group's formation and scope. These  
12 references may be interpreted in a manner that does not fully reflect Hawai'i's regulatory  
13 framework or the role of State oversight.

14 OHCA is the State agency responsible for regulatory oversight and patient safety with  
15 respect to licensed health care facilities, including hospice providers. As such, it is important

1 that any review of hospice services be grounded in accurate, Hawai'i-specific data and aligned  
2 with existing statutory and regulatory authority.

3 Clarifying the resolution language will help ensure that the working group's efforts are  
4 constructive, appropriately scoped, and supportive of the State's ongoing oversight  
5 responsibilities. OHCA stands ready to participate in and support a collaborative process that  
6 brings together stakeholders to strengthen hospice care across Hawai'i.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



April 7, 2026

House Committee on Finance  
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

**RE: HCR18/HR19, Requesting the Creation of a Hospice Working Group**

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee –

Navian Hawaii is a nonprofit organization supporting the needs of Hawai'i's aging population, including through hospice, palliative care, and integrated support services. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HCR18/HR19 with amendments**. These resolutions request the Department of Health to convene a hospice working group to examine trends and regulations in the hospice industry.

Hawai'i is undergoing a major demographic shift, with a rapidly aging population that will have profound implications for our healthcare infrastructure. In 2023, over 21% of Hawai'i's residents were aged 65 and older – a proportion that has been increasing and is projected to reach one in four by 2035. The fastest-growing segment includes those over 80 years old, a group that is more likely to require higher-intensity and higher-cost care.

As this trend continues, Hawai'i will face a dramatic rise in demand for end of life care, including hospice and palliative care. At present, our healthcare infrastructure is ill-suited to accommodate these changes. As such, there is a need to identify and implement alternative models that scale the amount of care that can be provided.

At the same time, there have been a number of concerning trends in the hospice industry on the mainland. In 2022, ProPublica published an article [Endgame: How the Visionary Hospice Movement Became a For-Profit Hustle](#) that unveiled growing fraud and abuse among bad actors who have taken advantage of the hospice benefit.

This has led to poor healthcare outcomes. Furthermore, as both resolutions state, a [Los Angeles Times article](#) in 2020 asserted that, in Southern California, where hospice companies have grown rapidly due to limited State regulation, "mismanaged pain medications, neglected infections, missed nursing visits, incompetent or dishonest home health aides - all were cited among hundreds of violations." The findings led to a [moratorium](#) on new hospices in the State of California.



Accordingly, our State is at a critical juncture. We need to navigate one crisis without leaving ourselves susceptible to another. To do so will require significant coordination among industry, government, and healthcare stakeholders.

We commend the legislature for introducing this measure, which does just that; it facilitates a discussion in which stakeholders study trends among the hospice industry, examine existing rules and regulations, and provide recommendations on regulatory changes.

We respectfully ask for an amendment to add the following language to the resolution, under the second "be it resolved" clause:

(6) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, or the Chair's designee; and

(7) The Chair of the House Committee on Health, or the Chair's designee; and

We feel these amendments would strengthen the composition of the working group, particularly because the proposed working group would include legislative recommendations prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027.

**Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.**