

# Hawaii Pacific Health

55 Merchant Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • hawaiipacifichealth.org

Wednesday, February 20, 2008 – 9:00 am  
Conference Room 329

## LATE TESTIMONY

### The House Committee on Health

To: The Honorable Joshua Green, M.D., Chair  
The Honorable John Mizuno, Vice Chair

### The House Committee on Human Services & Housing

To: The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA  
Executive Vice President

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HCR 53  
Requesting the Healthcare Association of Hawaii to Continue its Efforts to Develop  
Solutions to the Problem of Patients in Hospitals who are Waitlisted for Long-Term Care**

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Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Members:

My name is Virginia Pressler, Executive Vice President for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH). For more than a century, families in Hawaii and the Pacific Region have relied on the hospitals, clinics, physicians and staff of Hawaii Pacific Health as trusted healthcare providers. Our non-profit integrated healthcare system is the state's largest healthcare provider and is committed to improving the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals -- Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapiolani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital -- 18 outpatient centers and a team of 1,100 physicians on the islands of Oahu, Kauai and Lanai.

We are writing in **strong support of HCR 53** requesting the Healthcare Association of Hawaii to continue its efforts to develop solutions to the problems of patients in hospitals who are waitlisted for long-term care. On any given day there are as many as 275 patients in hospitals across Hawaii who have been treated and are now waiting to be transferred to a long term care facility but who must remain "waitlisted" in a hospital because long term care is not available. Discharge timeframes for waitlisted patients range from days to over a year. This represents a poor quality of life option for the patient, presents an often insurmountable dilemma for providers and patients, and creates a serious financial drain on acute care hospitals with ripple effects felt throughout other healthcare service sectors.

The 2007 Legislature adopted SCR 198 charging the Healthcare Association of Hawaii to convene acute care hospitals and long-term care facilities to identify and clarify issues, gather data, and develop solutions to the waitlist problem. The Task Force identified reimbursement, capacity, regulatory and workforce issues as four broad categories needing to be addressed in order to solve the Wait list crisis. This session resulted in legislation to (1) Increase certain Medicaid payments to hospitals and long term care facilities; and (2) Establish a process of Medicaid presumptive eligibility for waitlisted patients.

The Wait List crisis is a multi-pronged issue needing further investigation and collaboration. Therefore we ask that you **pass HCR 53**.

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KAPI'OLANI  
MEDICAL CENTER  
AT PALI MOMI



KAPI'OLANI  
MEDICAL CENTER  
FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN



**Straub**  
CLINIC & HOSPITAL

 **Wilcox Health**