

# LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Judiciary (Rep. T. waters, Chair; rep. B K Oshiro, VC)  
Tues 3/11, 2pm Rm 325

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lisa Darcy. I am the Coordinator for the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program named Kahi Holomua on Maui under Mental Health Kokua. I have been working with adults with serious and persistent mental illness for over 4 years here on Maui.

After reviewing the DOH proposed amendments, I SUPPORT SB1802, SD Proposed. Relating to Mental Health Records ; Confidentiality; Exceptions. The way the system currently operates creates a major barrier to treatment. SB1802 would be a big improvement.

There are numerous consumers who are in the program and would like to have this barrier eliminated but we just got the email and it is too late to write letters.

Lisa Darcy  
Kahi Holomua Coordinator  
Mental Health Kokua  
808.244.7405 x2108

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**JUDtestimony**

**From:** warmlines [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:27 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** director@unitedselfhelp.org; sharonrohner@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony needed for SB1802, Exceptions to Confidentiality in Mental Health Records -- Hearing tomorrow

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Please read this consumers input:

Hi Ann-Marie (My Core Service Worker in Washington, DC) and Effie Smith (Director Consumer Action Network in Washington, DC),

Please find attached a resume. Please keep in mind that I had a breakdown in 1999 and not until I was introduced to United Self Help a couple of years ago, a consumer run Non Profit Organization, did I think I could ever have this much success in my recovery. When I started working with United Self Help as an Independent Contractor I began to realize my potential again.

The approach that the Director, Bud Bowles and his Office Supervisor, David Imai took with me as a consumer was remarkable and healing to say the least. To date, my life continues to evolve in continued recovery in the areas of my motor abilities, mental comprehension, emotional stability and most importantly, I continue to lessen my patterns of critical (negative) thinking..

The recovery I have today has a direct correlation with the opportunities that were afforded me at United Self Help and the support of my family. I continue to have support online through Yahoo Messenger from the same support group (my extended family) I had while I was in Hawaii. Bud Bowles and David Imai continue to encourage my growth through various opportunities online with United Self Help.

I fully agree unless we communicate across the board for each consumer, we cannot help the consumer's recovery process. I believe in automation of my personal information to assist me and professionals held in confidence with my personal information. I was continually re-traumatized by having to explain my situation rather than having the opportunity to discuss my PTSD when I felt safe. At United Self Help there was no explanation necessary to be a part of their services. It took me time to trust. The principal applies to professionals, and it would have made it much easier to know they were already prepared with information about me.

Please feel free to contact Bud Bowles for any questions you might have about me. The United Self Help website is: [www.unitedselfhelp.org](http://www.unitedselfhelp.org) and I'm very excited to see the support we are now giving to our young people at [www.whatadifference](http://www.whatadifference) which is now on the United Self Help website under resource links. I did not start my recover until 3 years ago when I joined United Self Help. Just imagine what I could have accomplished as a young person if I had United Self Help in my life then.

Sincerely and Respectfully,  
 Sharon Rohner (Consumer) Washington, DC  
 Advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Records -- Hearing tomorrow

Please send in testimony in support of this bill:

SB1802, Relating to Mental Health Records; Confidentiality; Exceptions. Provides an exception to the confidentiality of mental health records and allows disclosure if it is made by the person's healthcare provider to another health care provider for the purpose of continued care or treatment.

3/11/2008

Testifier: Marion Poirier, M.A., R.N.  
Executive Director of NAMI Hawai`i  
To: House Committee on Judiciary  
Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 2:00pm  
SB 1802 Relating to Mental Health  
5 copies needed

LATE TESTIMONY

CHAIR WATERS, VICE CHAIR OSHIRO, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

### **SUPPORT**

My name is Marion Poirier. I am the Executive Director of NAMI Hawai`i, and am representing the organization in support of S.B.1802 Relating to Mental Health. This bill provides an exception to the confidentiality of mental health records and allows disclosure if it is made by the person's healthcare provider for the purpose of continued care or treatment.

SSCR883 provides a basic explanation regarding why we support this measure, and believe it to be critical to appropriate treatment and care. Please note the caliber of entities that supported this measure. These entities understand that historical information is germane to appropriate treatment of patients.

In the real world of medical practice in various clinical settings, the best treatment outcomes are predicated on the knowledge base obtained via a thorough medical history. NAMI, The National Alliance on Mental Illness and our parent organization, includes the following important information on this subject in its public policy platform.

- Federal and state legislation should be drawn so as to protect individual privacy rights, to the maximum extent feasible, while not impeding the conduct of biomedical, clinical or pharmaco-epidemiological research or treatment.
- When one physician makes a formal referral to another physician, clinical information, including information about medications, shall be made available to enhance clinical outcomes and avoid adverse treatment outcomes. When there is no formal referral, it is the responsibility of each treating professional to obtain information necessary to assure the provision of appropriate care and treatment. In all cases, the exchange of such information shall be treated confidentially and protected. The sharing of clinical information or refusal to consent to sharing of clinical information shall not be used to deny treatment, adversely affect services, or otherwise discriminate against person with severe mental illnesses.

The aforementioned is our rationale for respectfully requesting the exemption called for in our support of S.B. 1802 Relating to Mental Health. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide support for this critical access issue for people who have serious mental health illnesses. If you were the patient, wouldn't you want the treating physician to have such information?

## LATE TESTIMONY

Ko'olau Clubhouse  
March 11, 2008

To: Representative Tommy Waters, Chair  
Representative Blake Oshiro, Vice-Chair  
Judiciary Committee

My name is Sheldon Nishimura, and I am a member of the Ko'olau Clubhouse, part of the Hawaii Clubhouse Coalition. I am for SB 1802, Relating to Mental Health Records.

Back in 2004 I was recommended by court to get substance abuse services. I had charges filed against me which is why I was mandated to get substance abuse. Upon my release my case manager did not complete the proper procedures to process my paperwork, which included a consent form. None of this was completed and I ended up staying with family. This resulted in me being in violation of my parole and I ended up back in the state hospital

So, please support SB 1802, Relating to Mental Health Records. If this bill is passed, consumers like me who are in the process of changing living situations will not have to sorry about consent forms as these take time.

Thank you for your time, Sheldon Nishimura



Ko'olau Clubhouse  
March 11, 2008

To: Representative Tommy Waters, Chair  
Representative Blake Oshiro, Vice-Chair  
Judiciary Committee

My name is Randolph Kalahiki jr, and I am a member of the Ko'olau Clubhouse, part of the Hawaii Clubhouse Coalition. I am for SB 1802, Relating to Mental Health Records.

I have been a member of the Ko'olau Clubhouse for 3 years and have received mental health services for 25 years. Some of my fellow consumers have had a hard time getting services or treatment because they have to wait on paperwork being filed. Times like these are trying for consumers as the need for services increase when consent forms need to be signed. Usually it is times like these when there is no time to wait on a consent form.

So, please support SB 1802, Relating to Mental Health Records, as consent forms can take days.

Thank you for your time,



Randolph Kalahiki jr.

Ko'olau Clubhouse  
March 11, 2008

To: Representative Tommy Waters, Chair  
Representative Blake Oshiro, Vice-Chair  
Judiciary Committee

My name is Earl Maeda, and I am a member of the Ko'olau Clubhouse, part of the Hawaii Clubhouse Coalition. I am for SB 1802, Relating to Mental Health Records.

I was diagnosed with major depression and schizophrenia recently and due to my drug abuse I got myself into trouble and ended up in prison. In 2004 I got out from prison and got into a treatment center. In order for me to get into the treatment facility my case manager had to get consents from everyone involved. Luckily this didn't take long or else I could have been homeless. I have seen a lot of people go through this process but it takes a lot longer. And, in some cases some people I know have been too paranoid to sign consent papers leading to no services at all.

So, please support SB 1802, Relating to Mental Health Records, as our recovery is the top priority. Sharing mental health records would improve services dramatically.

Thank you for your time,

*Earl Maeda*

EARL MAEDA