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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Ways and Means

SB 3077, Relating to Volunteer Medical Assistance Services

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 26, 2008, 10:50 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** This is an administration proposal that the Department strongly supports.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** No impact, except in cases of injuries or deaths to volunteers covered by this
3 measure.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure would provide immunity from liability and workers'
5 compensation for licensed medical personnel providing volunteer services in non-emergency situations,
6 such as school-based immunization clinics, on behalf of the State or a county. Volunteer workers who
7 hold medical licenses and who are performing volunteer activities within the scope of their license are
8 indemnified under Hawaii law when responding to an emergency, but are not protected from liability if
9 they are volunteering for the State for a non-emergency activity, including training for future volunteer
10 service. Lack of coverage for professional liability may mean that these valuable workers will not
11 participate as state volunteers, thereby limiting the ability of the State to draw upon their skills as a
12 critical public health resource.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.