

Hawaii Pacific Health

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

Monday, February 4, 2008 – 1:15 pm
Conference Room 016

LATE TESTIMONY

The Senate Committee on Intergovernmental & Military Affairs

To: The Honorable Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA
Executive Vice President

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 3187**

Relating to Aging in Place: International Building Code Revision for Alternative Long Term Care Settings

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Members:

My name is Virginia Pressler, M.D., MBA, Executive Vice President for Hawaii Pacific (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, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital & Wilcox Memorial Hospital – 18 outpatient centers and a team of 1,100 physicians on the islands of Oahu, Kauai and Lani.

I am writing in support of SB 3187 which revises the International Building Code to allow assisted evacuation from alternative long term care settings. Hawaii is facing a long-term care crisis which is affecting patients throughout the entire continuum of care - from the acute care to the long term care setting. There is insufficient capacity (institutional and home/community based) to meet the needs of the elderly patients. As a result many of these patients currently remain "waitlisted" seeking to be transferred into a more appropriate long term care setting. These "waitlisted" patients are those deemed medically ready for discharge and no longer in need of acute care services but who cannot be discharged (due to various barriers) and therefore must remain within a hospital setting.

This measure would increase long term care bed capacity in the State for elders in non-institutional, affordable care settings. **We are writing in Support of SB 3187** and ask that you pass this measure.

KAPI'OLANI
MEDICAL CENTER
AT PALI MOMI



KAPI'OLANI
MEDICAL CENTER
FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN



Straub
CLINIC & HOSPITAL



Wilcox Health



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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February 4, 2008

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senate Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Inouye and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 3187 – RELATING TO AGING IN PLACE

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Departments of Health (DOH) and Human Services (DHS).

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS SB 3187**. The purpose of the bill is to: 1) require the state building code council to amend the international building code relating to physical assistance in evacuation for residents in assisted living facilities or similar facilities, 2) prohibit the counties from amending or repealing these amendments, and 3) extend the task force convened under Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 144 Senate Draft 1.

The Council was a member of the SCR 144 Task Force that was convened by DOH and DHS to develop a long-term care infrastructure plan for Hawaii to ensure public safety while supporting aging in place. Other members included DOH; DHS; County Building Departments of Honolulu, Kauai, Hawaii and Maui; Alliance of Residential Care Administrators; Healthcare Association of Hawaii, Hawaii Long Term Care Association; Adult Foster Home Association of Hawaii; Hawaii Pacific Health; County Fire Departments; Assisted Living Options of Hawaii; Maui Long-Term Care Partnership; and the University of Hawaii Center on Aging Research and Education. A report was submitted to the 2008 Legislature that includes recommendations addressing building and life safety codes for assisted living facilities to meet infrastructure requirements.

As a member of the Task Force, the Council supports the amendments to the International Building Code addressing the physical assistance in evacuation for residents in assisted living facilities or similar facilities. The passage of the bill would be a proactive step in addressing Hawaii's long-term care crisis by amending the international building code to eliminate barriers and allow the elderly and individuals with disabilities to age in place.

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye
Page 2
February 4, 2008

The Council supports the extended time for the Task Force to exist and welcomes the opportunity to continue working with the Task Force to address the long-term care infrastructure plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3187.

Sincerely,


Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator