

TO : SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
Member, Oahu Regional Board, Hawaii Health Systems Corps

SUBJECT: SR 115 Relating to Leahi Hospital Master Plan

HEARING: 1:30 PM, Monday, March 24, 2008
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Request the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Oahu Regional Board to convene a task force to develop a long-term care master plan for Leahi hospital. Specifies the process of appointing the members.

POSITION: My testimony is in support of SR 115. However, as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Oahu Regional Board of HHSC, I offer suggestions for changes in the composition of the taskforce.

RATIONALE:

I am testifying as a newly appointed member of the recently created Oahu Regional Board of HHSC and as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Oahu Regional Board. I am also a professor of medical sociology at UH-Manoa who has worked with elderly services in Hawaii for more than 20 years.

We are grateful for this resolution to support the planning effort for Leahi Hospital, which we believe has great potential for increasing services to address the full continuum of care for the elderly. I wish to offer suggestions as possible amendments to this bill:

- The bill calls for a taskforce and specifies the process and criteria for appointment. I suggest that specific mention be made of including the members of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Oahu Regional Board, since this planning process overlaps substantially with the purpose of this committee

- An adequate strategic planning process requires some funds in order to secure the required expertise.

Thank you for reading my testimony.