



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## House Committee on Health

### H.C.R. 93, Requesting the Department of Health to Establish Reporting Requirements for Hospitals and Medical Facilities Regarding Hospital-Acquired Infections

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

April 03, 2009; 10:30 A.M.

1 **Department's Position:** We oppose this concurrent resolution as it is duplicative of other current  
2 requirements, and it would adversely impact the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget  
3 for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Implementation of a reporting system for hospital-acquired infections would  
5 require significant fiscal and personnel resources that are not currently available to the Department nor  
6 to the hospitals and medical facilities, which would be mandated to report.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to combat hospital-acquired  
8 infections by requesting that the Department of Health establish reporting requirements for hospitals,  
9 medical facilities, and certain medical professionals, and requesting that the Department submit annual  
10 reports on hospital-acquired infections to the Legislature and the Governor and post such reports on the  
11 Department's website. While the Department supports the intent of this measure, we do not support this  
12 approach.

13 Hawaii's hospitals are too diverse in the patient populations they serve and the services they  
14 offer to permit meaningful comparison of nosocomial infection rates. This concurrent resolution

1 assumes that publication of comparisons of infection rates would stimulate hospitals to reduce these  
2 rates. This assumption has not been proven.

3 This proposal would be costly to implement, both for hospitals and for the Department. The  
4 Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization's reviews and other activities are already  
5 addressing the issue of nosocomial infections as are guidance recommendations of the Centers for  
6 Disease Control and Prevention and national healthcare professional bodies.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Conference Room 329  
April 3, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

Testimony in opposition to HCR 93.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to HCR 93, which requests the Department of Health to establish reporting requirements for hospital-acquired infections.

The Healthcare Association opposes the measure not because it is a bad idea, but because the Association is already working toward the same goal. As such, this bill would unnecessarily duplicate our efforts.

The Healthcare Association established a task force to develop a system for reporting hospital-acquired infections to the public that included representation from various hospitals and the Department of Health. The task force began to set the foundation for the infection reporting system before it was merged with the Association's Patient Safety Task Force. The merged group is called the Quality Committee.

The Quality Committee intends to adopt standards for hospitals to report infections. The infection information will be reported to the public, and the preliminary plan is to use a website similar to the one already being used by the Hawaii Health Information Corporation to report patient safety information to the public.

I would like to assure the committee that the infection reporting system being developed by the Healthcare Association will utilize national standards. The reporting system will be funded by Hawaii's hospitals, with no public funding needed.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii opposes HCR 93.