



LATE

Friday, April 3, 2009, 10:30am, CR 329

To: House Committee on Health  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association  
Gary A. Okamoto, MD, President  
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair  
April Donahue, Executive Director  
Richard C. Botti, Government Affairs  
Lauren Zirbel, Government Affairs

Re: HCR97 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ANALYZE A MEASURE TO REGULATE RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONERS.

Chairs & Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association supports this resolution as an important step in protecting patients from medical errors by providing assurance that educational requirements and qualifications are met for respiratory practitioners, who currently have no educational requirements by any government agency.

Forty-eight other states have oversight of respiratory care practitioners. This not only provides patient protection, but provides assurance to hospitals and medical professionals who contract with respiratory care practitioners that when they do there is some guarantee that the practitioners meet educational requirements of knowledge for their profession.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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