

SB 1139



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Touching Lives Everyday"

**The Senate
Committee on Health
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair**

Friday, February 13, 2009
3:45 PM
Conference Room 016
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting SB 1139
Relating to Health**

Authorizes the regional system boards and the Hawaii health systems corporation board to reduce or eliminate direct patient care services unless legislation is enacted that includes an appropriation of moneys sufficient to fund the mandated services

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr.
President & Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC)

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the HHSC the necessary flexibility to appropriately adjust the levels of patient care services provided at its facilities.

The primary intent of the legislation that created HHSC was to free the facilities from burdensome and restrictive bureaucratic procedures. This bill will enable HHSC to move more quickly to respond to changes in the health care environment that are created by community patient care demands, resource availability and any newly available technologies.

This bill would remove the requirement to have legislative approvals for adjusting the levels of direct patient care service and place that decision responsibility with the regional Boards of Directors after a public meeting and with ratification by the Corporate Board of Directors. This is in keeping with the intent and purpose of Act 290 which moved more operational oversight and responsibility to the regional Boards for the

HHSC facilities serving the local communities, however final reversal authority remains with the legislature should such oversight be required.

This bill also defines a process to be taken before making any changes to the levels of patient care service. We support the described process that includes providing forums for community input and discussion, and the requirement to prepare a sufficiently detailed plan outlining the purpose and expected outcome of changes to levels of patient care. Any plan will also take into consideration that impacts on employees will be subject to consultation/negotiation with respective unions in accordance with the collective bargaining agreements in place at the time.

We respectfully request your support of this bill.

Thank you.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Health

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 13, 2009

S.B. 1139 – RELATING
TO HEALTH

The Hawaii Government Employees Association opposes the purpose and intent of S.B. 1139. The bill proposes to allow the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to substantially reduce or eliminate direct patient care services without legislative approval as currently mandated. It would only require notifying the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President just twenty days prior to implementing the planned reduction or elimination of services.

We believe the existing safeguards requiring legislative approval before services are reduced or eliminated help to preserve the safety net for neighbor island residents who are so dependent upon HHSC hospitals.

If the HHSC wants to make adjustments in the level and types of services offered, the HGEA is willing to participate in these discussions along with legislators whose constituents would be directly affected by such changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opposition to S.B. 1139.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:54 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: jwalker1@hhsc.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1139 on 2/13/2009 3:45:00 PM

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Testimony for HTH 2/13/2009 3:45:00 PM SB1139

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerry Walker
Organization: West Kauai Medical Center
Address: 4643 Waimea Canyon Drive Waimea, Hi 96796
Phone: 808-338-9422
E-mail: jwalker1@hhsc.org
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

The Kauai Region includes the West Kauai Medical Center / KVMH; West Kauai Clinics - Waimea, Eleele, Kalaheo; Mahelona Medical Center / SMMH, supports SB1139. The bill gives HHSC and regional boards the flexibility to reduce services unless monies are legislated to cover said services.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:46 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: egreenia@hhsc.org
Subject: Testimony for SB1139 on 2/13/2009 3:45:00 PM

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Testimony for HTH 2/13/2009 3:45:00 PM SB1139

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Earl Greenia
Organization: Kona Community Hospital
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: egreenia@hhsc.org
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

This important bill will provide HHSC hospitals greater flexibility to respond to changing environmental conditions and change services as needed.