

SB 727

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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

SB 727, RELATING TO AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

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

Monday, February 9, 2009

1 **Department's Position:** The Department strongly supports this measure which will encourage more
2 widespread use of automated external defibrillators.

3 **Fiscal Implications: None**

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The ideal response to sudden cardiac arrest has been described as the
5 "chain of survival" where every minute counts. The initial links in the chain of survival include early
6 recognition of cardiac arrest and activation of the 911 system, citizen CPR, and early defibrillation. The
7 shorter the time between the onset of ventricular fibrillation (cardiac arrest) and the administration of a
8 defibrillating electrical impulse, the better the outcome will be for the patient involved.

9 The development of the automated external defibrillator (AED) provided an opportunity to
10 shorten the time to defibrillation by allowing first responders and the public to use them. A study
11 published in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2004 found that training and equipping volunteers
12 to attempt early defibrillation within a structured response system can increase the number of survivors
13 to hospital discharge after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in public locations and that trained laypersons
14 can use AEDs safely and effectively.

1 In January of 2006 the American Heart Association (AHA) published in the journal Circulation,
2 policy recommendations for community lay rescuer AED programs directed at key state legislative
3 components and implementation strategies. Their expert committees reviewed the decade of experience
4 with community AED program regulations in various states. Their review made recommendations for
5 essential components of successful programs as follows:

- 6 1. Good Samaritan limited immunity for rescuers and program facilitators
- 7 2. Training of anticipated rescuers in CPR and use of the AED
- 8 3. Planned and practiced response
- 9 4. Link to the local emergency medical services system
- 10 5. A process of quality improvement, including a plan for on-site AED maintenance

11 The purpose of this measure is to amend language in the existing law related to the use of
12 automated external defibrillators, extending limited immunity to include AED Programs.

13 The Department urges you to pass this measure that will increase implementation of automated
14 external defibrillators and lead to greater survival from cardiac arrest in Hawaii.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.