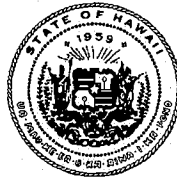


SB 818

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

February 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 818, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO HEALTH

Hearing: 9:00 a.m., Friday, February 27, 2009
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 818, S.D. 1, is to require the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Human Services (DHS) to make available to the public information collected from the departments' inspection of care facilities.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services respectfully opposes this bill as written and without an appropriation; however, we acknowledge that this measure has merit. DHS agrees that the public should have access to meaningful qualitative information in order to make appropriate health care decisions.

Our concern with this bill is that information contained in the current inspection or certification reports on adult day care centers (ADC) and community care foster family homes (CCFFH) may be

confusing, misleading, or inconsequential to consumers in evaluating the quality and conditions of care at those facilities.

During an inspection, a provider may be cited for failing to meet a particular regulation which has no real bearing on the quality of care for the client. Many ADC and CCFFH providers receive citations for minor, easily corrected issues such as missing a signature on a form, or lacking a piece of documentation. While such a problem does not directly concern client care and can be quickly rectified, it may nevertheless be interpreted by the consumer as indicating an "inferior facility" to avoid for placement of a family member.

DHS contracts with a purchase of service provider, as the DHS designee, to certify and re-certify CCFFHs. Currently there are approximately 900 CCFFHs, and the number continues to grow. The information gathered by the DHS designee during inspections will need to be put into useable form in order to be posted on the website. Therefore, DHS will require an appropriation to augment our current contract with our designee to implement this web-based program. These funds are necessary to create and maintain a website, expand and reconfigure the current computer system, ensure the quality of data, protect client confidentiality, continually update the website, and respond to questions and concerns from the public. This will be an ongoing rather than simply a start-up need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2009

THE SENATE
Committee on Ways and Means
Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Friday, February 27, 2009; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 818, SD1
RELATING TO HEALTH**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 818, SD1, which requires the Departments of Health and Human Services to post on their websites reports of all inspections of care facilities by 1/1/11.

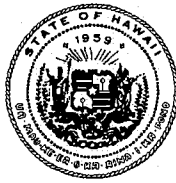
As Hawaii's population ages, more will need to reside in nursing homes and care homes that are under the jurisdiction and oversight of the Department of Health and the Department of Human Service. Both departments are required to conduct inspections of these facilities. S.B. 818, SD1 will require that both departments post on their websites reports of their findings from these inspections.

These reports will provide families who have loved ones in these facilities as well as those considering placement with more information about the quality of these facilities. Providing these reports on the departments' websites is an inexpensive way to provide a valuable service to caregivers who want to ensure that their family members are residing in suitable, quality environments. The Departments should also make every attempt to publicize their websites--through free publications, community organizations, public announcements in the newspapers, etc.

One drawback, however, is that many families and individuals do not have access to the Internet. However, more and more resources are available to allow such access--such as the public libraries and workforce offices like Oahu Work Links. While web access to inspection information may be limited, it is a start.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 818, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and concerns.

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