

SCR 141

FROM: NAMI Hawaii  
770 Kapiolani Blvd. Ste. 613  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: 808.591.1297

TO: Senate Committees on Human Services and on Health  
Hawaii State Legislature, Hawaii State Capitol  
Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 1:15 P.M.  
Conference Room 016

**IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR141 AND SR 93 (Corrected  
Testimony)**

SENATE CHAIR CHUN-OAKLAND AND CHAIR IGE AND MEMBERS OF THE  
RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND ON HEALTH:

My name is Marion Poirier. I am representing the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Hawaii (NAMI Hawaii) in strong support of these measures. Our national organization, NAMI, has recently published, "A Report on America's Health Care System for Adults with Serious Mental Illnesses", which includes a State Report Card for each state. The associated legislative measures before you request the Department of Human Services to convene a statewide task force to advise the legislature on methods to improve Hawaii's mental health system, using the report to glean methodologies.

NAMI's Report is comprehensive and uses measurable criteria. Because we are a state affiliate, we understand the depth of knowledge contained in the report. NAMI Hawaii looks forward to the cross-fertilization of studying Hawaii vis a vis other states. The Task Force will be an extremely interesting, and doable, way to suggest improvements. Although money for mental illnesses is still a critical topic, this report enables us to analyze effectiveness and efficiencies that do not always require additional cost.

NAMI wants to be engaged in solutions. The Report is a stellar example. NAMI Hawaii looks forward to participating, and adding our expertise. NAMI national can be of special assistance, too. Thank you for introducing these measures, for providing this hearing, and for your consideration of passing these measures. The website [nami.org](http://nami.org) features the aforementioned 2009 Report.

## HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1040, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone/TTY: (808) 949-2922 Toll Free: 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928

E-mail: [info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org](mailto:info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org) Website: [www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org](http://www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org)

### TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2009 SESSION

**To:** Senate Committee on Human Services  
**Senate** Committee on Health:

**From:** Hawaii Disability Rights Center  
**Re:** SCR 141/ SR93

**Hearing:** Thursday , April 2, 2009 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Members of the Committee on Human Services:  
Members of the Committee on Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting SCR 141 and SR 93

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center, formerly known as the Protection and Advocacy Agency of Hawaii (P&A) is the agency mandated by federal law and designated by Executive Order to protect and advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of Hawaii's estimated 180,000 people with disabilities.

We support these Resolutions. We have a long interest in the plight of individuals with mental illness. We have a dedicated program to the Protection And Advocacy of Individuals with Mental Illness ( PAIMI). We have authored a Report on Pretrial Detainees and served on the SCR 117 Task Force. We routinely monitor the Hawaii State Hospital. We are particularly concerned about the state of community based mental health in Hawaii in light of the recent economic downturn and the cuts in services (particularly case management) implemented by the Adult Mental Health Division.

We clearly feel that more must be done to improve Mental health services. We also believe that NAMI Hawaii is an organization with great credibility. For those reasons, convening a Task Force and utilizing the NAMI Report as a blueprint represents a valuable step in an important direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of these Resolutions.



HAWAII'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
HAWAII'S CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CAP



## Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street | Suite 601 | Honolulu, HI 96813-4718 | Tel: 808.536.8442 | Fax: 808.524.0347  
www.hawaiipca.net

To: **The Senate Committee on Human Services**  
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

**The Senate Committee on Health**  
The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of SCR 141/SR 93**  
**Requesting the Department of Human Services to Convene a**  
**Statewide Task Force to Advise the Legislature on**  
**Methods to Improve Hawaii's Mental Health Services**

**Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO**

**April 2, 2009, 1:15 p.m. agenda, Room 016**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association supports these resolutions. We believe that the Department of Human Services should involve the Department of Health in this work, since DOH has historically taken responsibility for our mental health system. At the same time, identifying DHS as the lead for this task force may be a good strategy since DHS has access to more federal resources through the Medicaid and CHIP programs and recognizes that the adequacy of mental health services reduces overall health care costs, disproportionately affects the economically disadvantaged people who depend on DHS programs, and, accordingly, suits the economic and programmatic best interests of DHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to support these measures.

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Health  
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair, Committee on Health  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Committee on Human Services  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, Committee on Human Services  
Committee Members

From: Marya Grambs, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Hawaii

Subject: Testimony for Sen. Health and Human Services Info Briefing 4/2 at 1:15, rm 16,  
SCR141/SR93; REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A  
STATEWIDE TASK FORCE TO ADVISE THE LEGISLATURE ON METHODS TO IMPROVE  
HAWAII'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mental Health America of Hawai'i stands in strong support of SCR141 and SR93. As you are undoubtedly aware, our state mental health system is currently in serious trouble, with budget cuts having forced lowering case management hours to unacceptable levels, case loads doubling, POS providers laying off half their staff, AMHD unable to pay bills, clients sent to private insurers who don't have comparable services, Hawai'i State Hospital facing cuts, etc. – and this is after the NAMI report card assessment was made. So such a Task Force is more than timely. And as one of Hawai'i's leading advocates for people with mental illnesses, MHA would very much like to be a part of this task force, if these resolutions are passed.

It may be very prescient to direct the Department of Human Services convene the task force, as there are predictions that all adult mental health clients who are, by definition, Medicaid eligible, will, in the future, be placed into Quest managed care through DHS to receive their services.

Please support these resolutions. We are at a desperate moment in the life of our state's mental health system and we need to gather all the wisdom and experience we can to determine how to make the situation better. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

With Aloha,

Marya Grambs, Executive Director  
Mental Health America of Hawai'i  
*...formerly Mental Health Association*  
1124 Fort Street Mall, Suite 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
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*Kāhi Mōhala*  
*Behavioral Health*

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April 1, 2009

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Ihara, Vice-Chair Green, and members of the Senate committees on Human Services and Health.

My name is Leonard Licina and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 141 and SR 93 Requesting the Department of Human Services to convene a statewide task force to advise the Legislature on methods to improve Hawaii's mental health services.

We urge you to establish a statewide task force to improve mental health services in Hawaii, a historic opportunity for payers and providers to collaborate on transforming our state's mental health delivery system. The current economic crisis has strained Hawaii's mental health system to a breaking point and recent high-profile media events have placed an unfortunate spotlight on our fragile mental health delivery system. Unfortunately, the economic crisis will likely get worse before it gets better, and the spotlight more intense.

Kahi Mohala is a key provider of mental health services to the people of Hawaii and should be included in this important task force. Kahi Mohala is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of caring for the people of Hawaii and is the state's only freestanding inpatient acute psychiatric hospital. We are a private not-for-profit center for excellence in mental health care and serve patients from all islands and all age groups. Kahi Mohala offers an extensive range of services including evaluation and referral, inpatient acute, hospital-based residential services, partial hospitalization services, psychiatric evaluation, treatment and medication management, specialty psychopharmacology service, clinical assessment, psychological testing, education services, occupational therapy, recreation therapy, and cognitive behavioral therapy. Accordingly, we believe Kahi Mohala is a key community stakeholder in Hawaii's mental health community.

Kahi Mohala provides the State of Hawaii with the most acute level of care in the spectrum of mental health care delivery. The work we do at Kahi Mohala both impacts all other levels of care provided in the state and is impacted by the care and availability of services by all other public and private providers. Accordingly, we would be grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with other community stakeholders to improve the mental health of the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these measures.

Aloha Senator Ige and the Senate Health Committee:

I fully support SR 93 for all of the reasons mentioned in the resolution.

I also fully support SCR 141. I look forward to neighbor island participation in the Task force and respectfully request that at least half of this Task Force of Stakeholders be comprised of persons with mental illnesses and their family members, to include parents/family members of school children as well as adults (with representatives from each neighbor island).

Mahalo nui loa for considering these important resolutions.

Sincerely,

Colleen O'Shea Wallace  
Mental Health America of Hawaii  
Maui Branch Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 141

To: Chairs, Suzanne Chun-Oakland & David Ige; their respective Vice  
Chairs and Committee Members

From: Ku'u lei A. Killiona, Advocate for People with Disabilities  
[kuuleikilliona@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kuuleikilliona@hawaii.rr.com)

Re: **SCR 141**

Date: April 2, 2009

Time: 1:15 pm

Place: Conf. Rm. 016

Dear Legislators,

I am in support of this resolution because it could help the State to get an overall view and plan to improve its mental health services. Since the beginning of the drastic cuts to mental health services, I have heard it said over and over again that the State is opening itself to future lawsuits and a return to federal oversight again. With the proposed task force in place, it could alleviate the return of a possible federal oversight by showing good faith in being pro-active by looking at ways to improve its mental health services.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

~Ku'u lei A. Killiona



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 96809-0339

April 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
  
Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S.C.R. 141/S.R. 93 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A STATEWIDE TASK FORCE TO ADVISE THE LEGISLATURE ON METHODS TO IMPROVE HAWAII'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of these resolutions is to request the Department of Human Services to convene a statewide task force to advise the Legislature on methods to improve Hawaii's mental health services.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) opposes these resolutions.

DHS is not the appropriate agency to convene a mental health task force. There is also no funding available to administer a statewide task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.