

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, FEBRUARY 22, 2010
Testimony in Support of HB 1902, HD1

May it please the Committee:

I am Stuart T.K. Ho, chair of the long term care commission (LTCC) created by Act 224, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008.

This testimony is in support of HB 1902, HD1 relating to long-term care. The Commission agrees with the bill's proposed amendments to Act 224 changing the dates of the interim and final reports submitted to the Legislature by the LTCC and extending the life of the LTCC until the adjournment of the regular session of the 2012 Legislature *sine die*.

HB 1902, HD1 coincides with the dates set forth in SB 2286, SD1 which are satisfactory to the LTCC. I understand and appreciate the House's and Senate's desire to accommodate the LTCC's revised work plan and I look forward to cooperating to satisfy this aim.

FOR THE LONG TERM CARE COMMISSION

/s/ Stuart T.K. Ho
Stuart T.K. Ho, Chairman

Copy: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The long term care commission agrees with the purpose and intent of SB2286, to wit, to amend Act 224 so as to extend the life of the commission and to change the interim and final report dates set forth in Act 224.

The reason for the changes we have requested is owing to the delay in securing adequate funds from non-state government sources to support the work of the commission. The appropriation provided by Act 224 could not be funded from state sources. Hence, the delay made the extension and changes provided by SB2286 necessary.

The Committee may be interested to know that following a nation-wide search, RTI International of Raleigh, North Carolina, was selected by the commission to conduct much of the commission's plan of work. RTI International's team is led by a nationally-eminent expert on long-term care, Dr. Joshua M. Wiener, and work has already begun. RTI International's and the commission's plan of work have been scheduled and integrated so as to be able to satisfy the reporting requirements of SB2286.

There is one amendment of SB2286 that we would recommend. There appears to be some confusion in the description of the funding history of Act 224. This can be easily clarified by amending SB2286 as follows:

1. Amend SECTION 1 by deleting the third and fourth sentences, *i.e.*, respectively, the sentence beginning, "The appropriation of. . ." and the sentence beginning, "However, the long term care commission. . ."
2. Substitute in place of the deleted sentences, the following three sentences: "Delays in obtaining the funds necessary to support the work of the commission made it impossible to meet the reporting dates specified by Act 224. In time, funding from non-state sources was secured and a work plan was adopted by the commission, but with new interim and final reporting dates. The commission believes the interim report called for by Act 224 can be timely submitted to the 2011 legislature, and the final report called for by Act 224 can be timely submitted to the 2012 legislature."

I would be happy to answer any questions.



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Monday, February 22 2010 – 10:00am
Conference Room 308

The House Committee on Finance

To: Representative Marcus B. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA
Executive Vice President

Re: **HB 1902 HD1 RELATING TO LONG TERM CARE - Testimony in Strong Support**

My name is Ginny Pressler, MD Executive Vice President at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider, committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 44 outpatient clinics and more than 2,200 physicians and clinicians. The network is anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Collectively, they lead the state in the areas of women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, bone and joint services and cancer care. Hawai'i Pacific Health ranks among the top 3.8 percent of hospitals nationwide in electronic medical record adoption, with system-wide implementation that allows its hospitals to offer integrated, coordinated care throughout the state. Learn more at: <http://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org>

We are writing in strong support of HB 1902 HD 1 which extends the sunset date and reporting dates to the legislature of the Long Term Care Commission.

On any given day there are more than 250 patients in hospitals across Hawaii who have been treated and are now waiting to be transferred to a long term care facility but who must remain "waitlisted" in a hospital because long term care is not available. Discharge timeframes for waitlisted patients range from days to over a year. This represents a poor quality of life option for the patient, presents an often insurmountable dilemma for providers and patients, and creates a serious financial drain on acute care hospitals with ripple effects felt throughout other healthcare service sectors.

The work of this commission is vitally important to our state finding a solution to our long term care crisis. Thank you.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Conference Room 308
Feb. 22, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Supporting HB 1902 HD 1.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii represents its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1902 HD 1, which extends the Long Term Care Commission created by Act 224, SLH 2008 from 2010 to 2012, and delays its reports to the Legislature.

Long term care is a significant and growing social concern because of Hawaii's large and increasing elderly population. As the frail elderly population increases, the need for long term care will also increase. Long term care can be expensive. The cost of nursing home care, for example, is typically more than \$100,000 annually, and it is not covered by Medicare.

The responsibilities of the Long Term Care Commission include identifying problems related to long term care and developing a comprehensive long term care plan. The Commission is composed of representatives of a broad spectrum of the population. The job of the Commission is formidable, and the Commission needs more time to complete its work.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports HB 1902 HD 1.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2010 10:45 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1902 on 2/22/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/22/2010 10:00:00 AM HB1902

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 261-2095
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/21/2010

Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a former Professor and Director of the Center on Aging at the University of Hawaii. and an advocate for frail elders, caregivers, and their families. The Long Term Care Commission is doing extremely important work. It is conducting research on long-term care needs in Hawaii, and will be developing a five-year plan to meet these needs. At present, long-term care services in Hawaii, and the funding for such services, are primarily institution-based. There are a wide range of payment sources, and much public and private funding is inadequate. Quality of care issues are everywhere. Consumers lack needed information to assess services. They also frequently lack the knowledge and resources to do what they would prefer to do: "age in place."

The Long Term Care Commission needs time to make sense of this chaos, and develop a comprehensive approach to providing and funding long-term care. Please give them the opportunity to do so by supporting HB 1902.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.