

HB2575

HD2 SD1



LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Telephone: (808) 586-1400 FAX: (808) 586-1412
E-MAIL: oiip@hawaii.gov
www.hawaii.gov/oiip

CATHY L. TAKASE
ACTING DIRECTOR

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
From: Cathy L. Takase, Acting Director

Hearing: Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

Re: Testimony on H.B. 2575, HD2, SD1
Relating to Trauma

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding H.B. 2575, HD2, SD1. OIP continues to work with DOH and the Hawaii Association for Justice to find language regarding the confidentiality of records that will meet all parties' concerns.



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 538-9011 • Fax: (808) 547-4646

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

March 23, 2010 – 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Re: HB2575, HD2, SD1 Relating to Trauma

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Caesar Ursic, MD, FACS, Trauma Medical Director for The Queen's Medical Center. I am testifying for The Queen's Medical Center in support of the establishment of statewide emergency and trauma system multiagency and multidisciplinary quality assurance and peer review committees convened and conducted by the department of health for the purposes of improving patient care, that have similar protections as those committees formed by hospitals and health maintenance organizations.

One of the cornerstones of modern medical care is an effective quality assurance program. Such a program must entail a recurrent, methodical and collaborative examination of actual patients and the treatments that they receive, both at an individual and systems level. This will then allow caregivers to identify problems and correct them as well as to improve upon already effective care.

The concept of a Trauma Multidisciplinary Quality Assurance (QA) and Peer Review (PR) process is one that has been validated by multiple national and international studies of trauma care as essential to improving outcomes. In other words, trauma systems with effective QA and PR programs save more lives than those without them. In a trauma system such as exists in Hawaii, *statewide* QA and PR committees would allow for the collection of reliable data, the ongoing and systematic analysis of trauma outcomes, the provision of feedback to participating trauma centers, hospitals and practitioners, and the identification of local or state-wide opportunities for improvement. All of these would result in higher survival and diminished disability for patients sustaining serious injuries in Hawaii.

Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 624-25.5, recognizes the importance of protecting QA and PR committees within individual hospitals and health maintenance organizations from discovery. In order to encourage the honest, open and voluntary participation in statewide QA and PR committees, it is crucial to establish similar protections for statewide QA and PR committee members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.