



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator David Ige, Chair

LATE TESTIMONY

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Conference Room 016
February 1, 2010 at 2:45 p.m.

Comments on SB 2467.

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 comment on SB 2467, which creates a study group to analyze the quality of care available at intermediate care facilities and skilled nursing facilities.

We believe that this bill is not necessary because the provisions of the bill are already being addressed in other ways. First, the Healthcare Association has established a Patient Safety and Quality Committee whose purpose is to formulate and implement strategies for member organizations to collaborate in improving healthcare safety and quality for the citizens of Hawaii.

The committee is comprised of the quality officers of the organizations that span the Association's membership. These individuals have formal training in, and access to, the most recent information issued by CMS and other national organizations regarding quality and patient safety.

One of the subcommittees established by the Patient Safety and Quality Committee is the Long Term Care Data Subcommittee, which defines, analyzes and formats quality/safety measures and projects pertinent to long term care facilities within the membership.

Second, the American Health Care Association has issued a report entitled, "2009 Annual Quality Report," which is designed to provide an objective and representative overview of the state of nursing and rehabilitative care in America by highlighting key quality trends, improvements and areas that require more attention in the future. The report relies primarily on government data and findings from some of the nation's leading researchers in long term care.

There is ample evidence that quality initiatives such as *Quality First* have improved quality of care and quality of life for nursing home residents in key areas. At the same time, the report asserts that there is still much room for improvement, and these areas are also highlighted in the report so that providers, consumers and policymakers can work together to chart a course for improvement in the future.

Third, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has made available a website called "Nursing Home Compare," which provides data about individual nursing homes. A number of quality measures are reported on the website, such as the percent of long stay residents who have moderate to severe pain and the percent of short-stay residents given influenza vaccination during the flu season. The website is available to the public

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 2467.