



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

LATE

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Human Services**

**and**

**House Committee on Health**

**SB 0422, RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**February 10, 2009, 1:15 p.m., Room 016**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health opposes this measure because it would adversely  
2 impact the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill is a vehicle to appropriate funds, which amounts are unspecified, to the  
4 Department of Health to provide for respite services for family caregivers.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to provide funds to families of children with  
6 serious or chronic illnesses, families with children with emotional or behavioral challenges, and families  
7 of infants/children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities. The Department appreciates the  
8 intent of this measure; however, given the current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to pursue  
9 enactment at this time. Respite services provide temporary relief and can preserve the family unit.  
10 The Department encourages families to obtain respite services through natural supports and seeks  
11 collaboration with other organizations in lieu of the unprecedented fiscal conditions that exist. For  
12 children and adults with developmental disabilities respite is also available through the Medicaid Home  
13 and Community Based Services Waiver program. The Department seeks to provide core services with  
14 limited financial resources.
- 15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.