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morikawa2 - Grant

From: Tomoso Home [jtomoso@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2011 6:57 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: testimony on HB 512

HB 512 - RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE HLT, CPC, FIN
Requires policies of accident and health or sickness insurance
to provide coverage for palliative care. Define palliative care.

Aloha kakou:

As a Social Worker, I have come to understand and be supportive of palliative care as an integral part of the comprehensive array of health services for patients who are living with debilitating and even terminal illness. I have recently consulted in two cases where the relieving of symptoms definitely improved the quality of life for the patient and their families. This improvement was also shared by the health care team, under the direction of the treating physician, as well. Such care, in my professional opinion, is "curative" in ways that are inclusive of the patient and all those surrounding him or her and this, to me, is how I as a Social Worker, deliver my best work!

Aloha iho

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Jan 27, 2011

Representative Daynette Morikawa
State Capitol, Room 426
415 South Berstania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa,

The Healthcare Association fully recognizes the benefits of palliative care and encourages its expansion throughout the state. In recent years, insurers, providers, and palliative care advocates such as St. Francis Health Systems and Kokua Mau have been working together to improve access to palliative care. Today, palliative care is available in many more health care settings, and there is much more insurance coverage for it.

It is estimated that hospice usage has doubled in 10 years, and today nearly one-third of all people who die have received hospice care before their deaths. The John A. Burns School of Medicine now requires its students to take a course in palliative care, and student nurses routinely do community rotations through hospice providers.

The Healthcare Association supports the continued collaboration to expand palliative care. However, we feel that a law that mandates insurance coverage is not needed at this time. Instead, we suggest a resolution that recognizes progress that has been made in recent years and encourages continued collaboration and the continued expansion of palliative care.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts on HB 512.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Roberts
640 Ulukahiki St
Kailua, HI 96734-4454