

Testimony of  
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**LATE  
Testimony**

Before:

House Committee on Human Services  
The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Jo Jordan, Vice Chair  
and  
House Committee on Health  
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

February 7, 2011  
10:15 am  
Conference Room 329

**Re: HB 596 Relating To Health**

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 596 creating a presumptive eligibility for Medicaid eligible waitlisted patients.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.**

It has been reported that Hawaii hospitals have lost millions of dollars due to delays in discharging patients waitlisted for long term care. According to a report to the legislature by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the Medicaid eligibility and re-eligibility application process in Hawaii is unable to handle the current volume.

Duration of these delays has ranged between several days to several months, and in some cases even more than a year. Contributing to these delays in many cases was the lengthy application, review and approval process for Medicaid eligibility for waitlisted patients. Furthermore, each day that a waitlisted patient remains in an acute care hospital bed is another day that a bed is not available for an acute care patient in need of that bed.

Some, if not much, of this delay could be shortened by the presumptive eligibility measures proposed in this bill. For this reason, Kaiser Hawaii supports this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



## HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH

Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

# LATE Testimony

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**Monday – February 7, 2011 – 10:15am**  
**Conference Room 329**

### The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

### The House Committee on Human Services

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA  
Executive Vice President

**Re: HB 596 RELATING TO HEALTH - Testimony in Strong Support**

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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.

We are writing in strong support of HB 596 Relating to Health which takes steps to solve the long term care problem by requiring the Department of Human Services to provide presumptive eligibility for Medicaid eligible patients who have been waitlisted for long-term care.

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.

HB 596 would establish a Medicaid presumptive eligibility process that is designed to reduce the period of time for determining whether a waitlisted patient qualifies for Medicaid. For financial reasons, Medicaid eligibility is required by many long term care facilities before certain types of patients are admitted. We ask that you pass HB 596. Thank you for your time regarding this measure.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health