

# HB 597

**Measure  
Title:**

**RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

**Report  
Title:**

**Quality Assurance Committee; Health Care; Peer Review Protections**

**Description:**

**Expands definition of "quality assurance committee" to include interdisciplinary quality assurance committees composed of members from various health care organizations. Effective January 7, 2059. (HB597 HD1)**



# THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

March 23, 2011 – 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**In Support of HB 597 HD1, Relating to Health Care**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cynthia Kamikawa. I am the Vice President of Nursing, Emergency and Trauma Services and the Chief Nursing Officer at The Queen's Medical Center. I am testifying on behalf of The Queen's Medical Center in support of HB 597 HD1 which provides peer review protections to HAH's Patient Safety and Quality Committee.

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 intent of this bill is to encourage full and free discussion that leads to effective changes in policies, procedures, or practices. In order to encourage open and voluntary participation by provider organizations represented by HAH members, it is necessary that HAH's Patient Safety and Quality Committee have similar protections as those committees formed by hospitals, health maintenance organizations and statewide trauma care systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair

Conference Room 229  
March 23, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

**Supporting HB 597 HD 1**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for 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. Our members employ more than 40,000 people throughout the state, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 597 HD 1, which provides peer review protection to HAH's Patient Safety and Quality Committee.

HAH has established a Patient Safety and Quality Committee whose mission is to improve the quality of health care delivered by the full range of provider organizations represented by our members. The committee would like to discuss medical cases, policies and procedures within our member organizations. In order to ensure full and free discussion, information about the cases must be protected from being used in medical malpractice lawsuits.

The State Legislature has already granted individual health care organizations the authority to establish peer review committees that may discuss information about medical cases that is protected. The authority was enacted to encourage full and free discussion that leads to changes in policies, procedures, or practices.

In the 2010 session a bill was passed extending peer review protections to committees established by the Department of Health to improve Hawaii's trauma care system. These committees consist of representatives of different health care facilities. Under HB 597 HD 1, the same peer review protections would be extended to HAH's Patient Safety and Quality Committee.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports HB 597 HD 1.