

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony to the
House Committee on Health

April 1, 2011
9:00 am
Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

HCR 195 and HR 169
Affirming the intent of the Legislature that amendments to the
State Health Services and Facilities Plan be done through the
public hearing process

Good morning Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the House Committee on Health. My name is Marilyn A. Matsunaga. In the past, I served the State of Hawaii for eight years as the Administrator of the State Health Planning and Development Agency. While my tenure has passed, I still continue to be involved in the healthcare industry assisting patients, providers and corporate clients.

I am here to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of these resolutions which reaffirm Hawaii's commitment to transparency in state regulatory matters.

The people of Hawaii are so very fortunate to have a Legislature with a core tradition of providing clear pathways for the people to actively participate in the development and planning of key community resources. Back in 1976, the Legislature established health planning as a function of the State via Act 152 and that the Act said "to ensure the pragmatic health planning of the State by providing a permanent vehicle for citizen input into the health planning process, so that the total health services plan of the State will be based on informed decision-making."

The tangible incarnation of Act 152 is the Health Services and Facilities Plan (HSFP). The HSFP implements, interprets and prescribes the health care policies and laws first established in Act 152. The HSFP is the sole policy document which statute says "shall address the health care needs of the State, including inpatient care, health care facilities, and special needs." It is the policy document that drives the certificate of need regulatory program.

Transparency in government activities is crucial to our democracy. Thank you for reaffirming the Legislature's commitment to open meetings in the discussions and deliberations of Hawaii's health care policy document, the Health Services and Facilities Plan.

Thank you for your kind attention.