



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senate Committee on Health

S.B. 184, RELATING TO HEALTH

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Acting Director of Health**

February 4, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the overall concept of this bill as it
2 includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives to protect the public health. However, we do
3 not support the approach outlined in this measure. Rather, we strongly prefer the language in SB 793 as
4 it would achieve similar goals over a more reasonable time frame with attainable benchmarks.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** SB 184 would require increased staffing at a cost in excess of \$350,000 for a
6 medical epidemiologist, research statistician, statistical clerk, IT specialist and a .5 FTE planner.

7 Hospital and healthcare provider costs would also increase through the need to hire staff to comply with
8 additional uncompensated requirements.

9 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill seeks to reduce healthcare associated infections (HAI) by
10 requiring DOH to collect and report HAI rates. This bill seeks to reduce healthcare associated infections
11 (HAI) by requiring DOH to collect and report HAI rates. Implementation of this measure would require
12 developing administrative rules, establishing surveillance criteria, and implementing complex
13 technological reporting systems for collecting, analyzing, and reporting extensive healthcare data from
14 providers by January 2012. This proposed timeframe is untenable.

1 SB 793 achieves similar ends utilizing methods developed by the Centers for Disease Control
2 and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). Under this option,
3 healthcare facilities shall allow the department access to data submitted and processed through the
4 national HAI database.

5 Adopting the alternative reporting system proposed in SB 793 will assure that HAI data reported
6 for Hawaii is consistent with national standards and comparable to data from other states.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.