

January 24, 2012

LATE

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TO: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair of the House Health Committee & Members
Health Hearing on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 10:00 a.m. in Room #329

SUBJECT: HB1708 Mental Health and Telemedicine Communication – Please support

As a mental health consumer advocate for over 25 years, I have been in touch with many mental health consumers locally and nationally. I have traveled throughout the islands and I understand that there have been problems for those seeking treatment by individuals that are located outside of the Honolulu area.

Telemedicine would help in these situations when mental health as well as physical health treatment is not available. But, the actual examination and determination should be done by someone who has a medical background. This would not include a psychologist due to their limited understanding of medications and treatment above talk therapy.

Please support this bill to assist people who need emergency mental health from all areas of our islands, including remote areas of Molokai and Hana.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Ellen K. Awai
Mental Health Consumer Advocate

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 3:26 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1708 on 1/24/2012 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for HLT 1/24/2012 10:00:00 AM HB1708

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Robert Scott Wall
Organization: Consumer, Family, & Youth Alliance
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2012

Comments:

We support not only the concept but the need for tele-medicine. In a state as rural as much of Hawaii is, a state which is medically underserved, the need to access available technology to bring health care to the most distant areas is a must. I would ask the Legislature on thing. This proposal is not well understood by many of our state's consumers and is, in fact, a little scary. I would appreciate it if the Legislature could provide an informational briefing, either on T.V. or to the papers, to help spread the word about the usefulness and safety of tele-medicine.