

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

Committee on Human Services

**H.B. 2559, RELATING TO MORTALITY REVIEW OF DEATHS OF PERSONS
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

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

February 2, 2012

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this administration proposal.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** H.B. 2559 will amend Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and provide
- 4 the Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division statutory authority to conduct
- 5 multidisciplinary and multiagency review of the deaths of persons with developmental or intellectual
- 6 disabilities, and allow the Director of Health to obtain clinical and other information surrounding the
- 7 deaths of individuals served by the Developmental Disabilities Division. The ability of the Department
- 8 Health, Developmental Disabilities Division to conduct and obtain information necessary to conduct a
- 9 comprehensive death review will help assure the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the
- 10 public that any wrongful deaths of individuals are investigated and remediation implemented to address
- 11 service issues that may have contributed to any of these deaths. The Government Accountability Office
- 12 has recommended to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that they encourage states to
- 13 conduct mortality reviews of persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities to help states
- 14 identify and address quality of care concerns among these individuals who are receiving Home and
- 15 Community Based Services Medicaid Waiver program.

- 1 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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February 2, 2012

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Twenty-Sixth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representatives Mizuno and Jordan, and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: HB 2559 – RELATING TO MORTALITY REVIEW OF DEATHS OF PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL OR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 2559**. The purpose of the bill is to create a new part in Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) giving the Department of Health (DOH) the authority to obtain all records for death review for persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities (ID).


The Council is aware that current mortality reviews conducted by DOH DD Division are hampered by their inability to obtain information from other sources such as service providers, hospital staff and other entities that may be relevant to the death of an individual with DD/ID. This situation prevents DD Division to conduct a complete review to determine issues into the cause of death.

Passage of the bill would provide legal authority to gain access to necessary information, facilitate comprehensive mortality reviews, help to identify health, safety and quality of life issues that may have contributed to any deaths, and prevent future situations that may have caused a death. Mortality review of deaths for individuals with DD/ID would be consistent with Child Death Reviews pursuant to Chapter 321, Part XXVII, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB 2559**.

Sincerely,


Liz Ann Salvador
Chair


Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator

Testimony for HUS 2/2/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2559

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka
Organization: Individual
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Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2559. The bill will amend Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and provide the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Division statutory authority to review clinical and other information surrounding the deaths of individuals served by the Developmental Disabilities Division. This will enable the Department to address and improve quality of care concerns for individuals who are receiving home and community based services under the Medicaid Waiver.

I previously served as the planner at the Development Disabilities Division, Case Management & Information Services Branch and know they are committed in maintaining quality assurance through their monitoring of providers and reviewing cases to improve and to assure the level of care for all clients in the system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.