



**THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS**

# LATE TESTIMONY

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Representative Robert N. Herkes, Chair

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair

## **COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

February 13, 2012 – 2:15 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

### **Comments on HB 2665, HD1 Relating to Stroke Treatment**

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Yamane, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Seth, Director, Neuroscience Institute and Ancillary Services, of The Queens Medical Center. We would like to provide comments on HB 2665, HD1.

The Stroke Center at The Queen's Medical Center has been the only The Joint Commission (TJC) certified Primary Stroke Center in the State of Hawaii since 2004. Currently, TJC Primary Stroke Center certification is the only nationally recognized certification process for medical centers seeking certification. "The Joint Commission's Certificate of Distinction for Primary Stroke Centers recognizes centers that make exceptional efforts to foster better outcomes for stroke care."(1)

Queen's has also been instrumental in working with the American Stroke Association, the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH), the Hawaii Neurological Association and other hospitals and local organizations over the last fifteen years to strengthen the State's stroke system of care, including actively participating in a stroke coordinator collaborative established by the American Stroke Association. We have been heavily involved with professional and community stroke education and outreach efforts, such as sharing best practices at workshops about how other hospitals can become certified as a TJC Primary Stroke Center. Queen's is also the hub hospital for the **The Hawaiian Islands Regional Stroke Network**, which is funded by a grant from the DOH Neurotrauma Supports Fund. This network would increase public education about the recognition of stroke symptoms and the need to call 911 and increase patient access to expert stroke consultation through the establishment of a telemedicine-based regional stroke network.

We note and appreciate the House Health Committee's legislative intent as indicated in the committee report of HB2665 which directs that this measure is not to impede our work at The Queen's Stroke Center, but rather strengthen the system of stroke care throughout all areas of the state. There is indeed a need to facilitate the development of stroke treatment capabilities and improve the access to stroke care across the State. More conversation needs to happen on the best way of achieving these critical goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Literature cited:

1. [http://www.jointcommission.org/certification/primary\\_stroke\\_centers.aspx](http://www.jointcommission.org/certification/primary_stroke_centers.aspx)

# LATE TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

### HB2665,HD1, RELATING TO STROKE TREATMENT

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

February 13, 2012  
2:15pm, Rm. 325

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of HB2665, HD1 but has  
2 reservations about the extent of activities assigned to DOH for which currently there are insufficient  
3 resources.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** No funds are appropriated. If passed in its current form, this measure would have  
5 adverse fiscal implications as the Department does not have funding to carry out the activities proposed.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health (DOH) recognizes the importance of  
7 establishing a statewide stroke system of care. The proposed measure contains requirements that exceed  
8 the Departments existing capacity and resources. The DOH Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention  
9 Program (HDSPP) worked with partners and recently published the state plan for the prevention of heart  
10 disease and stroke. The DOH HDSPP and the Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention  
11 Branch will continue to work with community partners to advance the system of stroke care in Hawaii  
12 where gaps exist and as resources permit.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.