

SB2816

Measure Title: RELATING TO HOSPITAL LICENSING.

Report Title: Hospital Licensing

Description: Permits the Department of Health the option of recognizing full accreditation by the Joint Commission as evidence of hospital compliance with all licensing inspection for the duration of the accreditation.

Companion: HB2554

Package: Gov

Current Referral: HTH, CPN

Introducer(s): TSUTSUI (Introduced by request of another party)

<u>Sort by Date</u>		<u>Status Text</u>
1/25/2012	S	Introduced.
1/25/2012	S	Passed First Reading.
1/25/2012	S	Referred to HTH, CPN.
1/27/2012	S	The committee(s) on HTH has scheduled a public hearing on 02-01-12 2:45PM in conference room 229.
2/1/2012	S	The committee(s) on HTH recommend(s) that the measure be PASSED, UNAMENDED. The votes in HTH were as follows: 4 Aye(s): Senator(s) Green, Nishihara, Chun Oakland, Wakai; Aye(s) with reservations: none ; 0 No(es): none; and 3 Excused: Senator(s) Baker, Shimabukuro, Slom.
2/15/2012	S	Reported from HTH (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2193) with recommendation of passage on Second Reading and referral to CPN.
2/15/2012	S	Report adopted; Passed Second Reading and referred to CPN.
2/21/2012	S	The committee(s) on CPN will hold a public decision making on 02-24-12 9:00AM in conference room 229.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Conference Room 229
February 24, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

Comments in support of SB 2816: Relating to Hospital Licensing

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 40,000 people. Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of SB 2816, which authorizes the Department of Health by rule to allow accreditation of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (Joint Commission) to substitute for State licensing inspections of hospitals.

Currently, accreditation by the Joint Commission may substitute for the State inspection in the year in which the accreditation is issued. This bill would extend the substitution for the entire three-year accreditation period. Of Hawaii's 29 acute care hospitals, 21 are accredited by the Joint Commission, and the remainder would continue to be subject to State inspections.

The Joint Commission is a national, independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits and certifies more than 19,000 health care organizations and programs. Joint Commission's standards are regularly revised and updated, representing the state of the art in the evaluation of health care organizations. Its mission is to continuously improve health care for the public.

If this bill is enacted, the Department of Health would retain its authority to conduct unannounced inspections at any time and to investigate complaints. This would complement the Joint Commission accreditation process and ensure that quality care is being delivered by Hawaii's hospitals.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations recently changed its name to the Joint Commission, so it may be appropriate to have this name change reflected in the bill (page 1, lines 3-4; page 1, lines 14-15; and page 2, lines 2-3).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 2816.