



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Judiciary

**S.B. 2821, H.D. 1 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**

March 21, 2012

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports S.B. 2821, H.D. 1
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** S.B. 2821, H.D. 1 will amend Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and
- 4 provide 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.