



1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-6100

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Roslyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

February 1, 2012 – 2:35 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**Regarding S.B. 2826, Relating to Volunteer Medical Assistance Services.**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cindy Kamikawa, Vice President of Nursing, ED, Trauma, CNO, of The Queen's Medical Center (QMC), testifying on S.B. 2826, which seeks to include pharmacists who provide state voluntary medical assistance services as immune from liability. **QHS strongly supports this measure.**

Medical professional volunteers continue to be needed to supplement the State's staff in preparation for disasters and emergencies, including pharmacists. Lack of coverage for professional liability for pharmacists will likely mean that these valuable workers will not participate as state volunteers. As much as they may wish to help, they are unlikely to risk losing their home or other assets as the result of a lawsuit. Utilization of volunteers for periodic non-emergency activities and events keeps the volunteer force active and interested, provides an opportunity for volunteer training, and allows practice of the system for calling volunteers out to respond. In order to build a strong volunteer workforce of medical professionals to support public health interventions and for emergency medical surge capacity, we strongly believe that pharmacists who volunteer for the state should be indemnified in both emergency and non-emergency situations, providing that they are acting within the scope of their license and assigned volunteer role and without willful misconduct.

QHS strongly supports this measure as it will provide the public with the benefits of including pharmacists in an enhanced volunteer workforce organized and trained to respond to emergencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.