

**TESTIMONY**

**SB2826**

**HTH Committee Hearing 2/01/2012**

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:

**Senate Committee on Health**

**SB 2826, RELATING TO VOLUNTEER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES**

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

**February 1, 2012, 2:45 p.m.**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this Administration bill.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** No impact.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure would include pharmacists as volunteer medical assistance
- 4 personnel. Medically-licensed volunteer workers who are performing volunteer medical assistance
- 5 services within the scope of their license on behalf of the State or a county are indemnified under Hawaii
- 6 law when responding to an emergency and during non-emergency situations such as school-based
- 7 immunization clinics. Lack of coverage for professional liability may mean that these valuable workers
- 8 will not participate as state volunteers, thereby limiting the ability of the State to draw upon their skills
- 9 as a critical public health resource.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health

FROM: Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

DATE: Wednesday, February 1, 2012 (2:45 p.m., Room 229)

RE: Support of SB 2826, Relating to Volunteer Medical Assistance Services

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii since 1947. We strongly support SB 2826:

CCH has provided supportive home and community based services to elders since 1973 and currently serves approximately 5,000 older persons each year. The agency has a Medication Management Program for seniors and caregivers.. Volunteer pharmacists are a valuable resource for this program which provides medication management education and one to one medication screenings. We support this bill to add pharmacists as volunteer health professionals to be provided immunity from liability.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i asks for your support of SB 2826. If I can provide any further information, please feel free to contact me at 808-527-4702 or via email at [diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

