



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

LATE

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. 2827, Relating to the Trauma System Special Fund

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

My name is Caesar Ursic, MD, FACS, Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery JABSOM and Trauma Medical Director of The Queen's Medical Center (QMC), testifying on S.B. 2827 which expands the use of the Trauma System Special fund to allow the fund to be applied towards supporting the staffing of the Department of Health's injury prevention program. QHS supports this measure, recognizing that the work of the injury prevention program as an essential part of the State's comprehensive trauma system. We believe supporting its staffing with the Trauma System Special fund is an appropriate and related use of the fund.

The Trauma System Special fund was created in 2006 to provide support to all Hawaii hospitals that provide care to trauma patients. The Department of Health, hospitals that provide care to trauma patients, and the Healthcare Association of Hawaii collaborated to support the fund's creation and funding mechanisms to ensure the highest quality of trauma care for the people of Hawaii. As the heart of the State's trauma care system, QMC provided care for more than 2,000 patients with trauma related injuries in 2010. This includes providing state of the art equipment and 24/7 on call physicians to provide the emergent trauma care. The pressure on hospitals is exacerbated by the high cost of providing care to these patients, who are often very critical and require extensive support. QHS appreciates the Legislature's continued recognition that trauma care is a public health priority.

QHS further appreciates the Department of Health's Injury prevention efforts which are necessary to reduce the burden of injury for Hawaii and as such, its need to ensure appropriate staffing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.