

**TESTIMONY**

**SB2827**

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Health**

**SB 2827, RELATING TO THE TRAUMA SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND**

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

**Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 2:45 pm**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this Administration bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** In 2006, the Legislature established the Trauma System Special Fund  
4 (TSSF) and charged the Department of Health to use the funds to build a comprehensive trauma system  
5 to reduce deaths and disabilities from injury in our state. A comprehensive trauma system, as outlined  
6 by the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA) in its 2006 document Model Trauma System  
7 Planning and Evaluation, and the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma's Resources for  
8 the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient, includes injury prevention as an essential component.

9 The Department currently has a strong injury prevention program, but it is primarily funded  
10 through federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Preventive Health and Health  
11 Services Block Grant (PHHBG). This year PHHBG funding was reduced by 25%, with further  
12 reductions likely in the coming year. The possible elimination of this funding threatens to reduce  
13 capacity to address injury in Hawaii. We cannot afford to let that happen, because injury is the leading

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1 cause of death and disability in our citizens 1-44 years of age, and also takes a significant toll on our  
2 kupuna. Prevention programs are the most cost-effective method to reduce the burden of injury  
3 The language guiding the use of the TSSF currently emphasizes hospital and physician services. The  
4 majority of TSSF spending to date has been in those areas, and they will continue to receive the majority  
5 of funds. However, this measure will establish the TSSF as a potential source of injury prevention  
6 program funding for the future, assuring that the State will have a truly comprehensive trauma system.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony for HTH 2/1/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2827

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Speedy Bailey

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Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments: