



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

**SCR94, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO CONDUCT A
STUDY TO PROMOTE WORKPLACE WELLNESS PROGRAMS**

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

March 27, 2012
1:46pm, Room 229

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this resolution.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department will incorporate the costs into the existing program budget and
3 work with partners to meet the study request.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of Senate Concurrent Resolution 94 (SCR 94) is to request the
5 Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to conduct a
6 study to promote worksite wellness programs in Hawaii. The resolution requests that the study includes
7 information relating to: direct subsidies or easing of regulatory barriers for large and small companies
8 who adopt workplace wellness programs; methods of improving long-term health outcomes for
9 employees; and methods of reducing medical costs and health insurance premiums for employers in
10 Hawaii. The DOH and the DLIR are requested to submit a report on the study no later than twenty days
11 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013.

12 The DOH is currently working with a national consultant to conduct a statewide worksite
13 wellness survey with Hawaii employers on their knowledge, attitude and behavior relating to worksite

1 wellness. Hawaii was chosen as one of ten states to take part in *The State of Worksite Health* survey
2 research project. The survey will be conducted with approximately 400 Hawaii businesses. *The State of*
3 *Worksite Health* survey will also be conducted nationally, with 1200 businesses, thus Hawaii will be
4 able to compare their results to data from the national survey and nine other states. As a part of the
5 survey process, focus groups will also be conducted with participants from small and large businesses on
6 Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and the Island of Hawaii to gather qualitative information to supplement data from
7 the telephone survey. Hawaii is currently working with the national consultant to develop the survey
8 and focus group questions and will include the information discussed in SCR94. The survey results are
9 tentatively scheduled to be released June 2012.

10 Following the release of the survey, the DOH is planning a conference with large and small
11 employers, insurance companies, public health organizations, policy makers, business organizations, and
12 others working on worksite wellness in Hawaii. The conference will provide a time to discuss the
13 results of the survey and to develop solutions to barriers identified by businesses relating to developing,
14 sustaining, and evaluating worksite wellness programs. The DOH is currently working with multiple
15 organizations to plan the conference and will invite DLIR to participate in the survey development and
16 conference planning.

17 The DOH Tobacco Settlement Special Fund (TSSF) is the primary source of funding in Hawaii
18 that supports the prevention of chronic diseases through the promotion of physical activity, poor diet,
19 and tobacco use. A small portion of this funding is utilized to support worksite wellness initiatives. If
20 SCR94 is passed, the DOH will work with established partners involved in current worksite wellness
21 efforts along with DLIR to ensure *The State of Worksite Health* project gathers the information
22 requested in the resolution.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.