



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

### House Committee on Health

## HCR 216/HR172, Urging the Convening of a Task Force to Establish a Stroke System of Care in the State.

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

Wednesday, March 27, 2013 10:00 am

1 **Department's Position:** The Department supports this measure to establish a stroke system of care in  
2 Hawaii.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** While resources will be needed to support a Task Force and begin work on a  
4 stroke system of care, the Department will begin this work using existing resources.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** As outlined in this Resolution, there are compelling reasons to establish a  
6 stroke system of care to enable patients across the state timely access to organized medical care that can  
7 successfully treat an evolving stroke. The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association  
8 Guidelines for the Early Management of Patients with Acute Ischemic Stroke, published on January 31,  
9 2013, provides information on the important elements of stroke systems that will guide the Task Force's  
10 work.

11 The Department hopes to use existing medical leadership and involve all acute care hospitals in  
12 building the stroke system. In consultation with key stakeholders, we respectfully request the following  
13 amendments to the Task Force beginning on Page 2, Line 1.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task force comprise  
2 government, non-profit, and private health care entities and include  
3 the following individuals:

- 4 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
- 5 (2) The Emergency Medical Services Directors of each county, or  
6 the Directors' designees;
- 7 (3) A representative of Healthcare Association of Hawaii, who  
8 shall identify and invite chief medical officers or their  
9 designees from all hospitals with emergency departments to  
10 participate as members;
- 11 (4) A representative from the Hawaii Neurological Society;
- 12 (5) A representative from the American College of Emergency  
13 Physicians, Hawaii Chapter;
- 14 (6) A representative from the Neurotrauma Advisory Board  
15 established under section 321H-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 16 (7) A representative from the American Heart Association or the  
17 American Stroke Association;
- 18 (8) A member of the Senate appointed by the Senate President;
- 19 (9) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
20 Speaker of the House;
- 21 (10) Any additional stakeholders identified by the task force may  
22 be added as members, as necessary; and

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35 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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## HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH

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**Wednesday, March 27, 2013 – 10:00 am**  
**Conference Room 329**

### The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Celeste Mausolf, RN, BSN, MBA  
Executive Director, Cardiovascular Service Line

Re: **HCR 216/HR 172 Urging The Convening Of A Task Force To Establish A Stroke System Of Care In The State**  
**Testimony in Strong Support**

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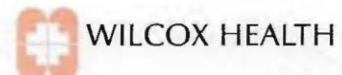
My name is Celeste Mausolf and I am the Executive Director of the Cardiovascular Service Line for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and service sites, more than 5,400 employees and 1,300 physicians on staff.

We are writing in **strong support** of HCR 216 and HR 172 which seek the convening of a task force to establish a stroke system of care in the State of Hawaii, including requirements for the measuring, reporting and monitoring of stroke care performance through data collection of a stroke database and registry.

These resolutions represent the collaborative efforts of the American Heart Association, Department of Health, and various health care providers including Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Clinic & Hospital. They will be useful toward creating an effective system to support the rapid assessment and triage of stroke patients so that patients are treated in a timely manner. Further, this will lead to greater collaboration and coordination among health care providers, and most importantly facilitate better data collection to guide efforts to better patient outcomes.

**We respectfully suggest amendments to the resolutions to clarify the role of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and to include two additional members for the task force as follows:**

(7) ~~[Three]~~ A representative[s of the health care industry selected by] of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, who shall identify and invite chief medical officers or designees from all hospitals with emergency departments to participate as members;



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

A representative from the Hawaii Neurological Society; and

A representative from the American College of Emergency Physicians.

The addition of the representatives listed above will ensure that all the necessary stakeholders are part of the process and provide for comprehensive input.

We ask that this Committee pass the resolutions with our suggested amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.





HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

March 27, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

**Supporting HCR 216 / HR 172: Urging the convening of a task force to establish a stroke system of care in the state.**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, a majority of home health agencies and hospices, as well as long term care facilities and other health care organizations. Our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 216 / HR 172, which urges the Department of Health to convene a task force to establish a stroke system of care.

Each year more than 700,000 Americans have a stroke, with about 160,000 dying from stroke-related causes (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke website, National Institutes of Health). Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States when considered independently of other cardiovascular diseases. Stroke also remains a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States.

Major advances have been made in the past several decades regarding stroke prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. However, significant obstacles remain in ensuring that scientific advances are consistently translated into clinical practice.

The American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association, and the Brain Attack Coalition have performed extensive research on stroke care and have compiled the most effective evidence-based practices in organized formats that can be adopted by hospitals. This resolution would facilitate the adoption of these practices through a stroke system of care in Hawaii. It is part of a national effort to ensure that stroke patients receive the best possible care.

For the foregoing reasons the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports HCR 216 / HR 172.