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Testimony on HCR 216/HR 172 “Urging The Convening Of A Task Force To Establish A Stroke System Of Care In The State”

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association supports HCR 216/HR 172 “Urging The Convening Of A Task Force To Establish A Stroke System Of Care In The State.”

The resolution would bring stroke stakeholders together to lay the foundation needed to address improvements in the stroke system of care in Hawaii.

Among other things, the task force would work to collect and compile stroke patient data from hospitals in the state and compile it into a registry. Using that data, it would examine and identify barriers to quality care for Hawaii stroke patients. It would also help to establish better emergency response to stroke since the one of the keys to better outcomes in stroke care is how quickly stroke is diagnosed and provided appropriate treatment based on current best practices.

Other possible goals that could be achieved through a data registry include:

- Increase quality improvement through collaborative efforts among participant hospitals.
- Lower the stroke morbidity experienced in Hawaii.
- Enhance the effectiveness of secondary care and prevent recurrent strokes.
- Develop protocols to guide physician care with effective stroke management.
- Develop effective methods to care for acute stroke patients.

The AHA/ASA supports the establishment of a state stroke data registry, and of designation of primary stroke centers as two of its national policy priorities. The AHA serves as a neutral party in bringing together sometimes competing hospitals and other business entities to work toward the common good of patients.

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association urges your support of HCR 216/HR 172 as a way to begin improving Hawaii stroke system of care, and to insure that all Hawaii stroke patients, despite their geographical location, are provided access to optimal stroke care.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Mission:Lifeline Director

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For information on the AHA's educational or research programs, contact your nearest AHA office, or visit our web site at www.americanheart.org or e-mail us at hawaii@heart.org

Oahu:
677 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 600
Honolulu, HI 96813-5485
Phone: 808-538-7021
Fax: 808-538-3443

Maui County:
Phone: 808-224-7185
Fax: 808-224-7220

Hawaii:
Phone: 808-961-2825
Fax: 808-961-2827

Kauai:
(Serviced by Oahu office)
Phone: 866-205-3256
Fax: 808-538-3443

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