



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 135 / HR105, Encouraging The Department Of Health To Establish An Emergency Services Patient Advocate Program To Provide Assistance To And Advocate On Behalf Of Patients Receiving Emergency Medical Care.

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

March 27, 2013, 10:00 am

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this measure, to promote
2 better communication among patients, their family members, and health care providers in emergency
3 situations, but respectfully requests the opportunity to explore the issue further prior to any legislation.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure does not include an appropriation. Funding would be needed for a
5 formal emergency services patient advocate program.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure would have the Department establish an emergency services
7 patient advocate program to provide assistance to, and advocate on behalf of, patients receiving
8 emergency medical care. Educating consumers regarding their rights as patients, and providing
9 guidance in how to have their concerns addressed is important. But hospitals should be the primary
10 conveyors of this information and be engaged to seek improvements. The extent to which the
11 Department needs to be involved in this effort and the scope of a potential program and associated costs,
12 should be further clarified with hospitals, health care providers, and the public before proceeding with
13 legislation.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Community Alliance for Mental Health

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To: The Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Health
Re: HCR 135 / HR 105

To: The Honorable Representative Belatti and the members of the committee.

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help strongly supports HCR 135 / HR 105. Disregarding the bill number we think that this is a great idea and fitting for its time. I hope that we are proving every day that individual advocacy for those in need works.

There is no more trying time than when an individual is stressed and suffering in crisis in the waiting room of a hospital or clinic. Whether it is about oneself or a loved one it is hard to worry rationally about simple tasks when life and death come to the fore. Therefore there could be nothing of greater service than someone who would step up, seemingly out of the blue, to help you plan and take care of those necessities which at that moment seem to you of little to no import. We applaud this idea.

Mahalo,
Scott Wall
Vice-President

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