

**HTH HEARING**

**TESTIMONY**

**SCR155 / SR 113**



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Health**

**SCR 155/SR113, 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**

**Monday, March 25, 2013 1:15pm**

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  
5 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
- 6  
7 (2) The Emergency Medical Services Directors of each county, or  
8 the Directors' designees;
- 9  
10 (3) A representative of Healthcare Association of Hawaii, who  
11 shall identify and invite chief medical officers or their  
12 designees from all hospitals with emergency departments to  
13 participate as members;
- 14  
15 (4) A representative from the Hawaii Neurological Society;
- 16  
17 (5) A representative from the American College of Emergency  
18 Physicians, Hawaii Chapter;
- 19  
20 (6) A representative from the Neurotrauma Advisory Board  
21 established under section 321H-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 22  
23 (7) A representative from the American Heart Association or the  
24 American Stroke Association;
- 25  
26 (8) A member of the Senate appointed by the Senate President;
- 27  
28 (9) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
29 Speaker of the House;
- 30  
31 (10) Any additional stakeholders identified by the task force may  
32 be added as members, as necessary; and
- 33  
34  
35

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH**  
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**Monday, March 25, 2013 – 1:15 pm**  
**Conference Room 229**

**The Senate Committee on Health**

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

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

**Re: SCR 155/SR 113 Urging The Convening Of A Task Force To Establish A Stroke System Of Care In The State  
Testimony in Strong Support**

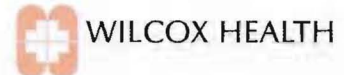
My name is Celeste Mausolf and I am the Executive Director of the Cardiovascular Service Line for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali 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 SCR 155/SR 113 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;



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.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator Josh Green, Chair

March 25, 2013 at 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

**Supporting SCR 155 / SR 113: 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 SCR 155 / SR 113, 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 155 / SR 113.



American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

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## **Testimony on SCR 155/SR 113 “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 SCR 155/SR 113 “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 SCR 155/SR 113 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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