



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
H.B. 2304, H.D. 1, Relating to the Neurotrauma Advisory Board

Testimony of Lynn N. Fallin
Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Administration

February 19, 2014

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports H.B. 2304, H.D. 1, relating to the
2 Neurotrauma Advisory Board.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** There are no fiscal implications.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** H.B. 2304, H.D. 1, proposes to amend HRS §321-3 to change the
5 minimum number of members on the Neurotrauma Advisory Board (NTAB) from 21 to 11 members
6 as appointed by the Director of Health. The smaller number of members will allow the board to
7 have quorum on a regular basis and improve the effectiveness of its statewide advisory board's
8 capacity to assist the Department to meet its legislative charge. More importantly, a total of three (3)
9 survivors or family members of individuals with neurotrauma will be appointed to the Board by the
10 Director and will have the highest number of representatives as compared to the other groups. This
11 measure proposes to delete representation from the Spinal Cord Injury Association as this
12 association is no longer in operation. A spinal cord injury survivor or family member will continue
13 to be represented on the NTAB. The Department has discussed this measure with the Board and
14 they are in support of reducing the number of board members. The Department is recommending an
15 amendment to this bill by amending language in Section (b) (6) to remove the requirement of the

1 Department appointing a representative from the American Stroke Association with “One
2 representative for persons with stroke.” This amendment provides the Department with flexibility in
3 appointing to the Board a family member of a stroke survivor, a stroke survivor, or an entity or
4 organization representing individuals with stroke. Lastly, this measure will allow the Director to
5 appoint up to three state and county ex officio non-voting members to the NTAB. Partnerships and
6 collaboration with such entities will provide a more coordinated effort for NTAB initiatives.
7 Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2304, HD1, “Relating To The Neurotrauma Board”

The American Stroke Association supports HB 2304, HD1 “Relating to the Neurotrauma Advisory Board.”

Created in 1997 as a division of the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association works to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis and treatment to save lives from stroke — America’s No. 4 killer (Hawaii’s No. 3 killer) and a leading cause of serious disability. To do this, we fund scientific research, help people better understand and avoid stroke, encourage government support, guide healthcare professionals, and provide information to stroke survivors and their caregivers to enhance their quality of life.

The American Stroke Association supports HB 2304, HD1 and welcomes the opportunity to provide its expertise in addressing the needs of Hawaii patients who suffer neurotrauma through stroke.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald B. Weisman".

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations/Community Relations Director

Serving Hawaii since 1948

Mission Statement:

“Building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.”

For more information on the AHA’s educational or research programs, visit www.heart.org or contact your nearest AHA office.

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*“Building healthier lives,
free of cardiovascular
diseases and stroke.”*

Please remember the American Heart Association in your will.

