

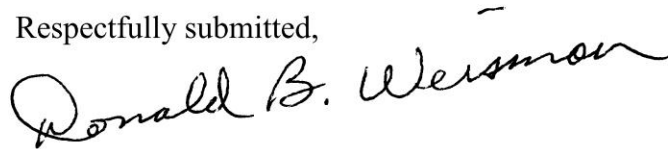
Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2304, “Relating To The Neurotrauma Board”

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

Respectfully submitted,



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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Date: February 2, 2014

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Re: Support – HB 2304 – NEUROTRAUMA ADVISORY BOARD

On behalf of Family Voices of Hawai'i, we support HB 2304 which revises the total number of Neurotrauma Advisory Board from 21 to 11 members while still maintaining representation of all existing parties..

Family Voices of Hawai'i & the Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center understands firsthand the challenges in obtaining quorum of a large board, while at the same time the ensuing frustration of not being able to move forward on the business of the board due to lack of quorum. The proposed statute as written provides the flexibility if the board were to grow because of increased interest and accessibility in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

H.B. 2304, Relating to the Neurotrauma Advisory Board

LATE

**Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Acting Director of Health**

February 5, 2014

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

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

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

- 1 three state and county ex officio non-voting members to the NTAB. Partnerships and collaboration
- 2 with such entities will provide a more coordinated effort for NTAB initiatives.
- 3 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.