

Community Alliance for Mental Health

April, 11, 2014

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To: Senate Committee on Health
Re: SCR 122, HD 1

Aloha Chair Green and the members of the committee,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we support passage of SCR 122, HD 1.

We believe that being in the Emergency Room (with or without someone to support you,) is one of the most traumatic experiences anyone can have. To have someone that can serve as a guide through the process, someone that knows the hospital, the social workers, the entire process can literally be a life saver. Not only for the patient but for their Ohana too.

Therefore we support passage of SCR 122, HD 1.

Scott Wall
Vice President for Policy
Community Alliance for Mental Health
808-349-9883
robertscottwall@yahoo.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: lindawogrady@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR122 on Apr 15, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Monday, April 14, 2014 1:36:40 PM

HCR122

Submitted on: 4/14/2014

Testimony for HTH on Apr 15, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda O'Grady	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HCR 122 HD1 Testimony. I support HCR122 HD1 because of personal experience. Last year I had to go to the ER for the worst headache of my life. As a mom, I was terrified and did not know what to do. I became nauseated, all I could think of was my children. My husband called my doctor first and when it took while to get called back, he called an advocate who told him to take me to the ER immediately. My advocate called ahead to the ER and informed them that I would be coming in and would need a CAT scan to determine if I had a subarachnoid hemorrhage. I was checked in immediately and had my test done within 15 minutes. When I was brought to the back, my advocate continued to work with the ER staff and a lumbar puncture was done. The doctor was initially hesitant to do an LP. My advocate discussed my family history which was positive for a subarachnoid hemorrhage (mother). And, even though the CT scan was negative, the machine used was not sensitive enough to exclude a small aneurysm. I was glad the advocate was there because neither my husband nor myself would have known any of this. I was lucky and all turned out OK. That is why I believe that an independent/third party advocate should be available to patients in emergency room and other medical settings.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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