



Thursday – April 17, 2014 – 10:55am
Conference Room 211

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

From: George Greene
President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HCR 78, HD1, SD1 - Requesting the Department of Health to Convene a Caregivers Working Group to Examine and Assess the Role of Caregiving for Patients Released From Hospitals and The Overall Circumstances of Patients Released from Hospitals and the Overall Circumstances of Patients Released from Hospitals as well as the Resources in the Community Needed and Available to Assist Them.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a 130-member organization that includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the majority of long term care facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospice programs, as well as other healthcare organizations including durable medical equipment, air and ground ambulance, blood bank and respiratory therapy. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing more than 21,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 78, HD1, SD1, which would request the Department of Health (DOH) to convene a working group to assess the role of caregiving for patients released from hospitals. HAH is in support of drawing wisdom and resources from the entire continuum of care to develop a comprehensive assessment of the current needs of Hawaii patients discharged from hospitals, and the full array of community resources that are available to assist them.

The hospital members of HAH are willing to review their role with regard to the training of caregivers, and are agreeable to working with AARP and other appropriate community organizations to assess this matter and develop solutions.

In a time of unprecedented change in healthcare, HAH is committed to working with providers across the continuum of care and other community stakeholders toward a healthcare system that offers the best possible quality of care to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 78, HD1, SD1.

From: [Maria Raiza Morales](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: HCR78
Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 11:29:40 PM

To: Senator David Ige, Chair of Committee on Ways and Means; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair of Committee on Ways and Means; and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
Date: April 17, 2014; Conference Room 211 10:55 a.m.

Re: HCR78 - Family Caregiver Working Group

Chair Ige and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR78, relating to the creation of a Family Caregiver Working Group. My name is Maria Raiza Morales. I am an undergraduate student from the School of Social Work at UH Manoa and I live in the Ewa Beach.

The passage of this resolution is vital because it is important that our state go through with legislative measures that sets up a good foundation in support of family caregivers in our state. It is known that the elderly population in our state is growing and will continue to do so. Most of the elderly in our state are being taken care of by unpaid family caregivers. Such caregivers are providing continued care after hospitalization and beyond that to our elders without proper training. While family caregivers saves money by taking care of our elders instead of hiring professional caregivers, accidents or improper administration of care can result to rehospitalization which could cost a lot more. In addition, our elders, or any patient, and their family needs proper education on how to adjust their lives when the patient comes home. Such things as education on rearranging furniture for the patient's mobility or change of diet and activity the whole family can follow in order to help the patient's recovery can be beneficial. This resolution is necessary for the establishment of future legislative bills to support our state's family caregivers and allow our elderly to age comfortably in their homes and communities.

Due to my current practicum work at Project Dana for the past few months, my understanding of the needs and stresses of our elderly and their family have grown. Hearing their stories and experiences remind me of when my family took care of my grandmother in our home. She was bedridden for eight years because of a stroke, she was unable to move any part of her body, and was dependent on every type of activities of daily living. Our family were uneducated and had very little training to provide the proper care she needed. We weren't aware of any therapeutic or physical exercises that we could do with her to relieve her pain or even better her condition. She eventually developed bed sores, which may have been avoided if we were educated on how to observe and treat this condition. While caregivers in our state now are more educated than my family was on how to properly care for the patients, they still express anxiety and stress on not having proper training and being uneducated of the patient's conditions. Therefore, such needs on training and education must be met, and HCR78 is pathway for that.

I urge you to support Hawai'i's caregivers, their family, our residents, especially our elders and pass HCR78.

Maria Raiza Morales
Ewa Beach Residen