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**Cc:** [jlakin@hah.org](mailto:jlakin@hah.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2352 on Jan 28, 2014 08:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:05:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [SB 2352 Mental Health Discharge CPN.pdf](#)

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**SB2352**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH/CPN on Jan 28, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeremy Lakin	Healthcare Association of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments: Testifying in support in person will be: George Greene President & CEO Healthcare Association of Hawaii

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**Tuesday – January 28, 2014 – 8:30am**  
**Conference Room 229**

**The Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

From: George Greene  
President & CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**SB 2352 — Relating to Psychiatric Facilities**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a 116 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 nearly 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2352, which would alter the discharge process for mental health patients being cared for in Hawaii's hospitals by (1) allowing hospitals to discharge civil commitment patients without a court order once a physician has determined them ready for discharge; and (2) extending discharge authority to attending physicians and changing notice and hearing requirements for discharge petitions relating to patients committed under sections 704-406 and 706-607.

Specifically, SB 2352 would permit hospitals that care for patients under court order for civil commitment for up to ninety days to discharge the patient when the attending physician determines the patient is ready for discharge without having to first obtain a court order. This would permit hospitals to discharge patients who are ready to be discharged, but must remain involuntarily committed due to difficulty in obtaining a court hearing and order for discharge. These patients are people who have committed no crime, and have been involuntarily committed by a court for rehabilitative treatment and care for up to ninety days—yet these patients are routinely held involuntarily even when the attending physician has determined that they are ready to be discharged. And while these patients remain involuntarily committed in our hospitals, they take up precious resources that could be used to serve other patients in need.

SB 2352 would also allow attending physicians, in addition to administrators, to discharge patients, and would also make changes to the notice and hearing requirements under section 334-60.7 for patients

Phone: (808) 521-8961 | Fax: (808) 599-2879 | [HAH.org](http://HAH.org) | 707 Richards Street, PH2 - Honolulu, HI 96813

who have been committed by a court for treatment and care under section 704-406, for a finding of unfitness to proceed in a criminal matter, or 706-607, for civil commitment in lieu of prosecution or sentence. These changes would streamline the discharge process for these patients, and would make important services available to other members of the community.

HAH is committed to working with providers across the continuum of care toward a healthcare system that offers the best possible quality of care to the people of Hawaii. SB 2352 would assist HAH in this mission by making much needed improvements to Hawaii's healthcare system, assisting rehabilitated patients seeking discharge, and making vital mental health resources available to Hawaii's citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2352.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2352 on Jan 28, 2014 08:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:08:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [LEG14SB2352PsychiatricFacilitiesJanuary282014.doc](#)

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**SB2352**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

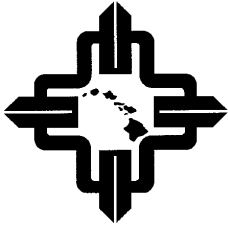
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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
miles	hpsc	Comments Only	No

Comments: If you have any questions, please call me at 733-4154. Thank you!

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# **HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**

C O R P O R A T I O N

*Quality Healthcare For All*

**Senate Committee on Health**  
**Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair**  
**Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair**

**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**  
**Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair**  
**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair**

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 229

Hawaii State Capitol

**Senate Bill 2352, Relating to Psychiatric Facilities. Requires the administrator or attending physician of a psychiatric facility to provide notice of intent to discharge a patient or patient's admission to voluntary treatment. Applies section 334-60.7, HRS, to only civil commitments as a direct result of legal proceedings.**

Comments Only

Alice M. Hall  
Acting President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) would like to offer the following comment: HHSC supports the added flexibility that SB 2352 would give the present discharge process.

Thank you for your consideration of our comment.

3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-4020 • FAX: (808) 733-4028

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2352 on Jan 28, 2014 08:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 9:15:05 PM

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**SB2352**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wailua Brandman	Hawaii Assoc. of Professional Nurses	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senator Josh Green, Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2352, which would require notifications to relevant parties on the discharge of a mental patient. My only additional comment is to urge the use of provider neutral language in place of "physician." HSH has consulted with me in the past about utilizing PMH APRNs to fill psychiatrist positions at their facility, and Castle Medical Center will be recruiting PMH APRNs as hospitalists in the near future. Kahi Mohala Hospital has already utilized APRNs as medical staff in the recent past. It is wise to not exclude these providers in this bill. Again, mahalo for this opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2352, and mahalo for all you do to protect and support the citizens of this great state. Wailua Brandman APRN FAANP Legislative Committee Chair, (HAPN) Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses

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