



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT with COMMENTS of House Bill 859
Relating to Health**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 18, 2015

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The department respectfully defers to the Governor's Executive Budget
2 request for the Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities. The department
3 is requesting continued funding of a temporary office assistant position for the posting of
4 inspection reports. If funding of this position is not approved by the legislature, the department
5 will be unable to absorb the new requirements contained in this bill with current staff.

6 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of this
7 bill. However, the department wishes to provide comments on the timing of the new
8 requirement contained in this bill.

9 This bill will require the department to post inspection reports of all state licensed health
10 care facilities onto the department's website for public access beginning January 1, 2015.

11 Assuming the bill passes and is signed into law by the governor by the beginning of summer, the
12 department will be immediately backlogged with a few to several dozen inspection reports at the
13 same time as it continues to post inspection reports on other previously-required care facilities.

14 The department would prefer the bill to require the posting of these additional facilities
15 beginning no sooner than July 1, 2015.

- 1 The department is currently working to revise its website and to hire a staff person to
- 2 accommodate the posting of inspection reports pursuant to Act 213 (SLH 2013). This revision is
- 3 expected to be finished and postings to begin within the next couple of months.
- 4 **Offered Amendments:** Establish a start date of July 1, 2015, on these additional facilities.



HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH

55 Merchant Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4333

Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

808-535-7401
www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

Wednesday – February 18, 2015 - 8:30 am
Conference Room 414

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Executive Director
Government Relations & Community Partnerships

Re: **HB 598 - Relating To Stroke Care**
Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, Executive Director, Government Relations & Community Partnerships at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider, committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 44 outpatient clinics and more than 2,200 physicians and clinicians. The network is anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Collectively, they lead the state in the areas of women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, bone and joint services and cancer care. Hawai'i Pacific Health ranks among the top 3.8 percent of hospitals nationwide in electronic medical record adoption, with system-wide implementation that allows its hospitals to offer integrated, coordinated care throughout the state.

I am writing in support of HB 598, which creates a stroke coalition that will establish a system of care for stroke patients, and establish a stroke data base in the Department of Health. Stroke is the leading cause of death in Hawaii. Rapid identification, diagnosis and treatment of stroke are effective in saving lives and may reverse the associated neurological damage. Thus, a systematic process which is consistent among health care providers and hospitals to evaluate and improve stroke care will enhance outcomes for stroke patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 8:27 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Big Island Adult foster home operators	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/17/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Apple Salom	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bernadette Carlson	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Martinez	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Divina Eder	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edgar Alba	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benita Riingen	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Antonio Ybanez	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Florentina Saldares	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francisca Parayno	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alejandro Salom	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Almira Acasio	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benancio Blanco	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dino Cacpal	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edna Sumoba Salom	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Filipina Andres	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jayvie Agcaoili Sumoba	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Sumoba Sapla	Individual	Support	No

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HB859

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grace Andres	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frances Marie E Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genevie Tuliao	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grace Jadulang	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonnel Jularbal Salom	Individual	Support	No

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**Arlene Hanks CCFFH
Jonathan & Arlene Hanks
44-124 Mikiola Drive
Kaneohe Hawaii, 96744**

February 17, 2015

**To: House of Representatives
Committee on Human Services
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

**Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. Richard P. Creagan
Rep. Mark J. Hashem**

**Rep. Jo Jordan
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro
Rep. Beth Fukumoto Chang**

**Hearing on HB 859
Thursday, February 18, 2015
8:30 A.M.
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Belatti and Chair Morikawa and committee members. I thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Jonathan P. Hanks, My wife Arlene and I run a Community Care Family Foster Home. I am in strong support of HB859. My wife has been a certified CCFFH operator continuously since 2000. I've been caring for elderly in our home since 2006. I am also certified as an Adult Care Home Operator. As our elderly population is increasing we need as many options as possible for them in long term care. This Bill, HB 859 Expands the list of state-licensed care facilities for which the Department of Health is required to post electronic inspection reports on its website. It Requires the Department to maintain a forum on its website where state-licensed care facilities may post vacancy information. I am in Strong Support of this measure, HB 859.

I humbly thank this Committee for this Opportunity to Speak.

Jonathan P. Hanks

Napualani Young

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ligaya Fernandez	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jopher Salom	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ligaya Cacpal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josie Ganancail	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joel Solmerin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Good Morning Chair, Vice-Chair and Members:

My name is Lilia Fajotina, President of ARCA, Alliance of Residential Care Administrators

I strongly support the intent of HB859.

According to Section 321 – 1.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes: ‘Beginning with inspections occurring on January 1, 2015, the Department of Health shall post on its website electronic copies of reports for all inspections it performs of state-licensed care facilities.’

HB 859 asks to amend the statute further as ‘in addition to the inspection report information being posted on the website, the Department of Health shall maintain a forum on its website where all state-licensed care facilities may post vacancy information to facilitate the placement’ of consumers actively looking for placement especially those urgent need or in emergency placements where abuse and/or neglect is suspected in the Home or Facility.

There were issues or problems with inappropriate placements in the past where the resident or client does not have a clue where he or she was going to live and was not given the choice or not even seen the home. Discharge planners in the hospitals or long term care facilities mostly just talk the patient who is being discharged or family into living in an area the resident or resident’s family do not prefer or desire for their love one to live or stay. With the list of vacancies on the website, they can navigate into the system and see for themselves what’s available for them. DOH has a printed list of care homes for example to give to the prospect resident and family. It has many pages and it could be overwhelming, especially to someone who does not even know what a Care Home or a Foster Home is; their differences, their type of clients, and so on. Consumers should be able to have a place where they can go directly to look what’s available for them; the freedom to select without compliance from discharge planners or case managers/workers.

I believe in transparency. The list of vacancies should be included in the website and not limited to the: Name of the facility; Name of the Primary Caregiver; demographics; location; a short description of the facility; if it is ADA approved facility or if can accommodate wheelchair bound clients; if the facility is recommended and any other that the DOH deemed important to include.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Napualani Young

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Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Danielweskyjj	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 11:59 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Jane E. Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 8:28 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marisol Galzote	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Myrna Caro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jocelyn Peregrino de la Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Ybanez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nelia Blanco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nercy Kramarz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pancho Sumibcay Sumoba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Norma Camper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olivia Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: **Committee Chair on Health, and Representative Chair Della Au Belatti**
Committee Chair on Human Services, Representative Dee Morikawa

Date: **February 18, 2015, 8:30 AM, House Conference, Rm 329**

Re: **HB 859—Relating to Health, Department of Health, Website; Care-Home Vacancy**

Chair Belatti, Chair Morikawa and Committee Members:

Thank very much for the opportunity to express my SUPPORT to the measure under consideration. I am a registered nurse and officer of Alliance Residential Care Administrators (ARCA). I am a co-owner of adult residential care home.

Last year HRS 321-1.8 was enacted to require Department of Health to post on the website all results of the inspections conducted or performed all state-licensed care facilities. For consumer safety and protection, the posting may improve the quality of service rendered to our Kupuna in long term care home facilities.

On the other, HB 859 requires the Department of Health to post vacancy information of all state-licensed home care facilities. By posting vacancy, families searching for placement for their loved ones will find it easier to navigate the complexity of the community-based care facilities. It may also enhance the marketability of particular care homes if clients are searching for care homes in particular locality. This is beneficial to care homes that don't have the luxury of travelling to hospitals soliciting clients from the discharge planners or social workers. Otherwise, potential clients to care homes could be placed to foster homes because of the latter's ability to market empty beds of the different foster homes.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ramon Sumibcay

Napualani Young

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 12:27 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Galsote	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joane E. Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert de la Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

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Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 11:23 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Romeo Eder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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creagan1 - Dannah

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Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 10:57 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Romeo Salom Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Royal Solmerin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Napualani Young

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shirley Arellano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 6:13 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: okanocarehome@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacey Okano	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Stacey Okano, licensee/pcg of Okano EC ARCH here on the Big Island. I am the newly elected president of care homes here. While I respect the Department of Health's desire to host a website that will post our inspection reports I also respectfully request that the care homes and adult day care facilities, etc be able to have the access to update our contact information as well as the status of openings we may have to assist with the care of our senior population. I feel it could be a win/win situation as it will take the load off the Department of Health in doing this, give the facilities the relief that their information is updated and gives the public the knowledge of which facility have openings for their love ones. We support this bill and encourage it to be passed. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my support.

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Napualani Young

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresita Cacpal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 6:49 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: wannetteg@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM

HB859

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
WANNETTE GAYLORD	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the assistance in placing our Kupuna into state licensed care facilities. This bill will help families in their time of need to expedite the transition. Thank you for listening to my testimony in support of HB859.

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Napualani Young

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Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
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HB859

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Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Myrna Ablao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
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HB859

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Andres	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Napualani Young

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 12:08 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liberty Albano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Napualani Young

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Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
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HB859

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffry Arellano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB859 on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM*

HB859

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 18, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Sembran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: The Honorable Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair
The Honorable Representative Richard Creagan, Vice Chair
and Committee Members:

Date: February 18, 2015 0830 Conference Room No. 329

RE: HB859 - Relating to Health

Report Title: Department of Health; Website; Care-Home Vacancy

My name is Myriam Tabaniag, a Registered Nurse who has been managing two care homes, a Type I, 5-bed Expanded Care Home and a Type II, 8-bed Expanded Care Home in Kaneohe for 14 years.

I strongly support the intent of HB859.

According to Section 321 - 1.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes: 'Beginning with inspections occurring on January 1, 2015, the Department of Health shall post on its website electronic copies of reports for all inspections it performs of state-licensed care facilities.'

HB 859 asks to amend the statute further as 'in addition to the inspection report information being posted on the website, the Department of Health shall maintain a forum on its website where all state-licensed care facilities may post vacancy information to facilitate the placement of consumers actively looking for placement especially those in dire need or in emergency placements where abuse and/or neglect is suspected in the Home or Facility.

There were issues or problems with inappropriate placements in the past where the resident or client does not have a clue where he or she was going to live and was not given the choice or not even seen the home. Discharge planners in the hospitals or long term care facilities mostly just talk the patient who is being discharged or family into living in an area the resident or resident's family do not prefer or desire for their love one to live or stay. With the list of vacancies on the website, they can navigate into the system and see for themselves what's available for them. Sorry to say, but this problem is still prevalent today. DOH has a printed list of care homes for example to give to the prospect resident and family. It has many pages and it could be overwhelming, especially to someone who does not even know what a Care Home or a Foster Home is; their differences, their type of clientele, and so on. Consumers should be able to have a place where they can go directly to look what's available for them; the freedom to select without coercion from discharge planners or case managers/workers.

I believe in transparency. The list of vacancies should be included in the website and not limited to the: Name of the facility; Name of the Primary Caregiver; demographics; location; a short description of the facility; if it is ADA approved facility or if it can accommodate wheelchair bound clients; if the facility is recommended and any other that the DOH deemed important to include.

It would also be appropriate for the Department of Health to have a telephone line dedicated for the purpose to help those clients looking for placement who do not have or do not know how to use a computer. Or for those clients who wants to ask about a particular deficiency of a facility that they saw on the website and need clarification.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.