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HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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February 11, 2016

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016

Re: SB2391 Relating to Health

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department, Emergency Medical Services Division (EMS), would like to provide the following comments on SB2391.

Everyday our EMS personnel put themselves at risk while treating patients with unknown illnesses. The possibility of an occupational exposure by needle stick or bodily fluids is significant for our personnel. It is essential to test the source person immediately upon the known exposure for early intervention treatment.

The post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) medication is taken immediately by the exposed health care worker for up to four weeks. The side effects of the medication are severe and may cause an employee to call in sick. The health care worker may discontinue taking the PEP medication once the results return negative. An immediate result is vital in determining whether the employee may withdraw the PEP medication.

Filing a court order is also a lengthy process to require medical testing of a source patient. It is necessary for an immediate blood draw from the source person to conduct a test for any communicable disease. Once the court determines a probable

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cause for medical testing, it will be a time consuming process to track the source patient, if possible as well as exhausting resources.

Thank you for allowing EMS to provide comments on SB2391.

Sincerely,



Ian T.T. Santee
Deputy Director