

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony SUPPORTING SB2539, S. D. 1
Relating to the Special Action Team for the Hawaii State Hospital

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 11, 2016, 9:00 a.m. Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined at this time.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure. We thank
3 the Legislature for its continued support. Only through a combination of financing support,
4 building a new facility, support in rebuilding community programs, and fundamental policy
5 changes will Hawaii be able to effectively address the needs of its citizens, the operation of the
6 Hawaii State Hospital (HSH), and be able to provide an effective continuum of mental health
7 supports. Separately, we will be addressing measures the Governor and others have introduced
8 regarding policy and staffing challenges. Clearly, all three branches of government play a
9 critical role in making this system function effectively.

10 The purpose of the measure is to create a temporary Special Action Team for HSH to
11 address capacity and census issues and to develop the new forensic facility which is projected to
12 be completed in 2021. The S.D. 1 includes technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the
13 purposes of clarity and consistency. This measure appropriates \$50,000.00 in general funds for
14 this team. The creation of this HSH Special Action Team, as proposed, will convene key
15 stakeholders involved in the development of the new secure building for high risk patients to be

1 built at the HSH. The group will assist and advise, and may support exempting the project from
2 certain permits and approvals which are not necessary for completion of the project.

3 The prospect of decreasing the burden of bureaucratic “red tape,” and speeding up the
4 time table for the project, is encouraging and the DOH welcomes this effort.

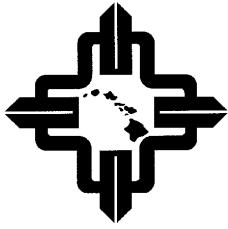
5 The director of health is currently chairing a steering committee on this project, which
6 includes the Departments of Accounting and General Services, Health, Human Services, Land
7 and Natural Resources and Budget and Finance and the Attorney General. Further discussion
8 may be helpful to clarify the additional benefits of the Special Action Team as proposed.

9 Regular reporting, a feature of this bill, may alternatively be accomplished through a
10 resolution as well.

11 Our understanding is that open meeting laws will apply to this Special Action Team, as
12 currently proposed. If this is not the intent, we recommend that this be addressed within this bill
13 clarifying the extent of public notice, agenda posting, attendance at and participation in the
14 Special Action Team.

15 Historically, the Senate Concurrent Resolution of 2007, known as the SCR-117 Task
16 Force, and the Governor’s Special Action Team on the Hawaii State Hospital Census of 2012,
17 encountered some challenges in the full implementation of the recommended actions from those
18 bodies.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

**House of Representative Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair**

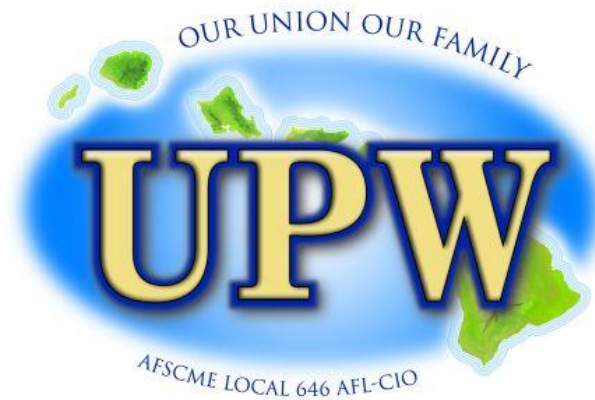
March 11, 2016
Conference Room 329
9:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting Intent of Senate Bill 2539, SD1 – Relating to the Special
Action Team for the Hawaii State Hospital**

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation **supports** SB2539, SD1, to establish a Special Action Team related to the Department of Health's forensic mental health services. The Special Action team will work to address current capacity and census issues at the Hawaii State Hospital and to expedite the completion of new forensic facility. With this measure, the Senate shows its commitment to address the pressing needs that exist for patients and workers in the forensic mental health system today. It is an honor to be named to participate, and HHSC will give its full effort to this important endeavor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Richard Creagan, M.D., Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, March 11, 2016
TIME OF HEARING: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 329

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2539, SD1 RELATING TO THE SPECIAL ACTION TEAM
FOR THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

SB2539, SD1 establishes a special action team for the Hawaii state hospital. Its purpose is to advise and assist the department of health to address the capacity and census issue at the state hospital and expedite development of the new forensic facility ready for occupancy by June 30, 2019. The UPW **supports** this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

