



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

SB 300, Relating to Violence Against Health Care Personnel
Senate Committee on Health
Hearing—February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM

Dear Chairman Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my support for the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's testimony regarding SB 300, relating to violence against health care personnel. QHS supports legislation that would build on existing protections for emergency medical workers by expanding the definition of assault to include *all* medical service providers and professionals whom a person *intentionally or knowingly* causes bodily injury to.

It is simply the reality that healthcare workers face risks of job-related injury as a result of violence. It is essential that our system of laws protects our front line worker and our patients from those who seek to do harm.

It is all too tragic that, just recently, a cardiac surgeon at a hospital in Boston, Dr. Michael Davidson, was fatally attacked by the disgruntled son of one of his patients. While this does represent an extreme example of violence against medical personnel, it does serve as a reminder that we must do what we can to ensure that our provider community is protected. Your support of this bill will provide an effective deterrence to violence for *all* medical staff. That is why I ask you to vote favorably on HB 584.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



Wednesday, February 4, 2015 – 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room #414

Senate Committee on Health

To: Sen. Josh Green, MD, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

From: George Greene
President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB300 — Relating to Violence Against Health Care Personnel

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii's 160 member organizations include all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, all public and private skilled nursing facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospices, all assisted living facilities, durable medical equipment suppliers and home infusion/pharmacies. Members also represent other healthcare providers from throughout the continuum including case management, air and ground ambulance, blood bank, dialysis, and more. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB300, which increases penalties for violence against healthcare workers in hospitals, federally qualified health centers and medical clinics.

Healthcare workers are more than four times more likely to be victims of workplace violence than other private sector workers, and account for approximately 60% of all nonfatal workplace assaults occurring in private employment settings (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2007). SB300 would make assaults against healthcare workers in hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and medical clinics—currently a misdemeanor—a felony with increased penalties.

Given the increased risk of serious bodily injury, the legal protections currently afforded to healthcare workers in emergency departments should be extended to workers in other healthcare settings. However, it is important to note that SB300 would not be applicable to patients receiving medical services outside of the emergency room.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB300.

Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:
Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
February 4, 2015
1:15 pm
Conference Room 414

Re: SB 300 Relating to Violence Against Health Care Personnel

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill relating to expanding the type of protection for violence against medical personnel.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill, but would like to offer an amendment.

Violence against healthcare personnel continues to be on the rise. According to a U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, healthcare workers experience violent assaults at a rate four times higher than the national average. Health-care workers are hit, kicked, scratched, bitten, spat on, threatened and harassed by patients with surprising regularity, which negatively impacts medical personnel by reinforcing a common misconception that this type of violence is just part of the job.

Kaiser Permanente supports this bill to protect medical providers from unnecessary violence in the workplace, but asks that the scope of protection be expanded to include all medical service personnel treating patients, not only those within the emergency room. While there is a high prevalence of violence reported in emergency departments, other high stress departments, such as the labor and delivery, maternal-child health units, and mental health settings, also reported increased risk of exposure to violence due to sensitive and emotionally charged issues. In these heightened areas of stress, medical service personnel are typically attacked simply out of frustration.

Therefore, to remain consistent with the rest of the bill, which already deleted all general references to “emergency,” Kaiser Permanente requests the deletion of paragraph (f)(iii) limiting this bill’s application to only “emergency room” locations. Clearly, there are other high stress areas of medical facilities that are vulnerable to this same workplace violence, not only the emergency room, and these other medical personnel should be equally protected.

Thank you for your consideration.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 300
Relating to Violence Against Health Care Personnel
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer
February 4, 2015, 1:15 pm, Room 414

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 300, calling for harsher penalties for individuals committing assault in the second degree on medical personnel.

The HPCA strongly supports this measure and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB300 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Friday, January 30, 2015 6:51:41 PM

SB300

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senator Green, Chair and Senator Wakai, Vice Chair and Honorable members of the Senate Health Committee. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB300 with a vital Amendment. I am an APRN, currently in private practice as a psychiatric specialist. I have worked many years as a staff nurse in emergency rooms in Hawaii and other states across the US Mainland, I have also worked in critical care areas as well as inpatient and outpatient psychiatric settings. I am the same person in all settings, and as a health care provider who works with potentially violent patients whether medical or psychiatric, I deserve protections regardless of setting. In addition, a potentially violent patient is not going to decide to only be violent in an ER. For these reasons, I strongly suggest this bill be amended to delete any reference to "only in an emergency room." Providers need to have their safety assured in ALL HEALTH CARE SETTINGS. Mahalo for your consideration and for all you do for the health and safety of the citizens of this great state. Warmest Aloha, Wailua Brandman APRN FAANP Ke`ena Mauliola Nele Paia, LLC 615 Piikoi Street, Suite 511 Honolulu, HI 96814
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