



**April 15, 2016 at 9:00 AM**  
**Conference Room 329**

**House Committee on Health**

To: Chair Della Au Belatti  
Vice Chair Richard P. Creagan

From: George Greene  
President and CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**SCR 106, Recognizing the Month of September as Sepsis Awareness Month in Hawaii,**  
**and the Thirteenth Day in September of Every Year as Hawaii Sepsis Day**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 180 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** SCR 106. This legislation would recognize September as Sepsis Awareness Month, and the thirteenth of September of every year as Hawaii Sepsis Day. We believe that this recognition could help to raise awareness of this issue. Our members and our organization are working diligently on this issue and we appreciate initiatives that complement those efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016 4:41 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jkutzer@hinurse.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR106 on Apr 15, 2016 09:00AM

**SCR106**

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for HLT on Apr 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
joan kutzer	Hawaii Nurses Association OPEIU local 50	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii Nurses Association OPEIU local 50 is in support of SCR106

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## SEPSIS ALLIANCE<sup>®</sup>

*Suspect Sepsis. Save Lives.*

April 15, 2016

State of Hawaii  
House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard Cregan, Vice Chair

Re: SCR106

Date: April 15, 2016  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony on this important measure.

Sepsis Alliance is the nation's oldest and largest sepsis advocacy organization. We represent the millions of people who have been killed or injured by sepsis and millions more who will be victims unless changes are made. The Sepsis Alliance website, [Sepsis.org](http://Sepsis.org), receives 1 million visits each year from patients, family members, health providers and other sepsis constituents.

Sepsis is not a new disease, yet it continues to take a life every 2 minutes and is known to fewer than half of U.S. adults. Sepsis takes more lives than breast cancer, prostate cancer and AIDS, combined. Sepsis is the leading cause of death in hospitals, the leading cause for readmissions to hospitals, and the leading cost of hospitalization in the U.S. Tragically, and cause for optimism, sepsis is treatable in as many as 80% of cases. We can save as many as 200,000 Americans every year with improved awareness and education.

Sepsis Alliance strongly supports SCR 106 in that Sepsis Alliance established Sepsis Awareness Month in 2011 to focus additional attention on the impact of this disease and to promote increased awareness and education efforts. Similarly, Sepsis Alliance partnered with the Global Sepsis Alliance to designate September 13 as World Sepsis Day. Supporting these events on a state level will help Hawaii bring focus to these calendar events in support of the state's commitment to reduce mortality and morbidity from sepsis.

Sepsis Alliance applauds your efforts to save lives and limbs from this epidemic disease.

With my appreciation and best regards,

Thomas Heymann  
President and Executive Director  
[theymann@sepsis.org](mailto:theymann@sepsis.org)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 8:03 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** bananaz808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR106 on Apr 15, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SCR106**

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Apr 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Analyn Quintal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 6:59 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** lynnluzzo@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR106 on Apr 15, 2016 09:00AM

**SCR106**

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Apr 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn Luzzo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My Brother-in-law recently passed away at 36 years old due to Sepsis. The Sepsis attacked his body faster than the doctors could figure out the illness. We need to know more about this disease and aware everyone of the symptoms.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 5:58 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** scot.stiglich@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR106 on Apr 15, 2016 09:00AM

**SCR106**

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Apr 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scot Stiglich	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I had a brother in law in Hawaii who was a treasured family member as well as a valued member of the Police Department, and he passed away from Sepsis. I want to do my part on his behalf to make people aware.

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**George S. Massengale**  
**4300 Waialae Avenue, Apt. A803**  
**Honolulu, HI 96816**  
**808-271-9296**  
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April 14, 2016

House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard Cregan, Vice Chair

Re: SCR106  
Date: April 15, 2016  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 329

### **Testimony in Strong Support**

Chair Balatti, Vice Chair Dr. Cregan and members of the Committee on Health. I am here today to offer this testimony in support of SCR106 and to support my close friend, Fredrick Rohlfing. SCR106 if passed would recognize September as Sepsis Awareness Month and the thirteenth day in September as Hawaii Sepsis Day.

I would also note for the Committee that SCR106 was unanimously adopted by the Senate on April 7, 2016, and I am here today to ask the Health Committee to pass SCR106 without amendment, and I am asking the Health Committee to do the same today,

In 2011, The Sepsis Alliance recognized that more attention could be drawn to sepsis and sepsis awareness if there was a specific month dedicated to the cause. While efforts towards education for both the public and healthcare professionals are maintained throughout the year, having a dedicated Sepsis Awareness Month allows for organizations and facilities to organize activities for their staff, and for Sepsis Alliance supporters to make a concentrated effort on spreading information about sepsis.

During the following year 2012, the Global Sepsis Alliance, of which Sepsis Alliance is a founding member, declared September 13th to be World Sepsis Day. This one day brings together people in health care and members of the public to recognize that sepsis is a global problem.

Septicemia is an insidious "equal opportunity disease" like cancer it affects the young and old, male and female, republicans and democrats, the rich and poor, the famous -- Patty Duke, and the not so famous. It does not discriminate. It can start with any kind of infection, be it a cut on your arm, or an infection of the lungs, like pneumonia. The infection can rapidly spread throughout the body, shutting down organs and doing damage to muscle and tissue.

Septicemia is often misdiagnosed and once diagnosed it is often too far along to be effectively treated with antibiotics. Also the mortality rate for patients hospitalized with sepsis is more than eight times as likely to die.

In November 2015, statistical brief from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Nationwide Readmissions Database (NRD). This HCUP Statistical Brief, Trends in Hospital Readmissions for Four High-Volume Conditions, 2009-2013, found that "sepsis as being responsible for the most readmissions to a hospital within 30 days after a hospital visit. The life-threatening and often misunderstood condition is also the most expensive diagnosis, leading to readmissions costing more than \$3.1 billion per year."

In the past the legislature has recognized numerous awareness months; February as Heart Month, March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, May as Asthma Awareness Month, and this month – April is Tsunami Awareness Month. A month and a day dedicated to Sepsis, will shine a light on one of the least understood and deadly medical conditions facing our people today.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with you today.

Warmly,



George S. Massengale



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 3:10 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** juliesutera@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR106 on Apr 15, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SCR106**

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Apr 15, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Becky Gardner

Re: Testimony in Support of: SCR106– SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH

Hearing: April 15, 2016 – Room 329 9:00am

I am writing in strong support of SCR106, which was unanimously adopted by the Senate on April 7, 2016, to increase SEPSIS AWARENESS in Hawaii.

My name is Becky Gardner. I wish to disclose that I am a state employee in an office that is administratively attached to the Department of Health. However, I submit this testimony not in my capacity as public servant, but as a concerned and interested resident of the State of Hawaii. Therefore, my testimony does not represent any views or position my office may or may not have. It is based upon my personal views alone.

Before 4 years ago, I had never heard of SEPSIS. This is remarkable since I grew up in a home of health care providers, one of whom was an emergency room nurse. However, many might be as surprised, as I was, to learn just how common it is. According to the Global Sepsis Alliance: "In the U.S., sepsis accounts for far more deaths than the number of deaths from prostate cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined." <http://www.world-sepsis-day.org/?MET=SHOWCONTAINER&vCONTAINERID=11>

I first heard of sepsis when I learned of the death of Patty Rohlfing, loving wife of a dear friend – Fred Rohlfing, whom many of you know personally and/or politically for his contributions to this state and country as not only having served in this very legislature; but also as a federal judge; in the U.S. Navy; and on numerous state and county boards and commissions. Fred has been the engine behind many of the legislative proposals over the last few years regarding sepsis awareness and patient advocacy. Of particular note is SB666 during the 2013 Legislative Session. His testimony on that bill relates the details concerning his wife's death, and is available here:

[http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2013/Testimony/SB666\\_TESTIMONY\\_HTH-JDL\\_02-06-13.pdf](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2013/Testimony/SB666_TESTIMONY_HTH-JDL_02-06-13.pdf)

What is compelling about his recount is the seemingly countless opportunities for the health care professionals, front line staff, friends, and/or family that were present during the sudden demise of Patty's health, to have picked up on some of the warning signs, or taken a more cautionary approach to avoid or mitigate the damages of septic shock. Of course, no one can be held at fault for not recognizing something they didn't have awareness of in the first place. Creating such awareness, which might have saved Patty's life, is the objective of this measure.

A death due to Septic Shock has again recently impacted people close to me. On March 4,

2016, many grieved the loss of Jacob Reed – just 36 years old; an officer with the Honolulu Police Department; loving and doting husband to Cheryl Reed; and loving, giving father of two young boys – Ethan (6) and Noah (3). Jake dedicated his life to protecting his community. He was young, healthy, fun, and a true friend to so many.

His death happened so suddenly, stemming from something so common - bronchitis and pneumonia. In a matter of a few days, his pneumonia resulted in the release of a bacterial infection that got into his bloodstream that put him into septic shock and quickly led to liver and kidney failure. More information about Jake can be read here:

[https://www.gofundme.com/a4s7cd8s?utm\\_source=internal&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=cta\\_button&utm\\_campaign=upd\\_n](https://www.gofundme.com/a4s7cd8s?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=email&utm_content=cta_button&utm_campaign=upd_n)

Could what happened to Jake have been prevented with greater awareness; an understanding of what the risk factors are; and an appreciation and dissemination of best practice guidelines? I imagine such efforts would've made a difference for Patty, and Jake, and to all the people who love them and were loved by them.

Just this last week, the world learned of another life taken by Sepsis. Patty Duke, famous for her role playing Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker" passed away due to septic shock from a ruptured intestine. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/judystone/2016/04/02/can-patty-dukes-death-help-prevent-other-sepsis-deaths/#327d0f42b7ba>

A simple google search for "Sepsis Awareness" brings up extensive material and resources that would help in our collective understanding and treatment. I therefore urge this committee to assist in our collective action to take full advantage of the work that's already done to understand and prevent sepsis. Perhaps the efforts made in a Sepsis Awareness Month and Day can manifest into concrete preventative action, early detection, and widespread knowledge of sepsis in Hawaii – and save lives.

Please pass SCR106 without amendment in honor of Patty Rohlfig, Jacob Reed, and countless others who have died or have been affected by Sepsis. Pass this measure in the spirit of prevention; to avoid great suffering; and to spare the lives of any one of us who may be afflicted with this condition.

Thank you.

Becky Gardner

# Sepsis at a Glance

Sepsis is when the body reacts to infection—whether bacterial, viral, fungal, or even parasitic—with an “overwhelming and life-threatening” systemic inflammatory response. It can afflict anyone with any infection.

For more information, see [Sepsis: Combating the Hidden Colossus](#).

## IT CAUSES A LOT OF DEATHS

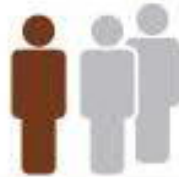
### 3rd Leading Cause of Death

1. Heart disease   2. Cancer   3. Sepsis

Sources: Elixhauser et al.; CDC.

Contributes to **1** in every **2 to 3** hospital deaths

Source: Liu et al.



## IT CAN PROGRESS QUICKLY



### Septic shock:

**7.6%** drop in chance of survival each hour until antimicrobials are begun

Source: Kumar et al.

## KNOW THE SIGNS

# KNOW SEPSIS

S

SLURRED  
SPEECH

E

EXTREME  
SHIVERING  
OR MUSCLE  
PAIN

P

PASSING  
NO URINE  
(ON A DAY)

S

SEVERE  
BREATH-  
LESSNESS

I

“I FEEL  
LIKE I  
MIGHT DIE”

S

SKIN  
MOTTLED  
OR  
DISCOLORED

IN TREATING SEPSIS,  
**THE 1<sup>ST</sup> HOUR IS CRITICAL**  
**THE FIRST 24 CAN BE DECISIVE.**

SCR106  
Relating To Recognizing September 13, as Sepsis Awareness in Hawaii as "Sepsis Day"  
House Committee on Health  
Date of Hearing: 04/15/16 at 9 am; State Capitol Conference Room 329

As a health care provider and graduate student, I Sherrienne Chow is in support of SCR106 to recognize every September 13 as Sepsis Awareness in Hawaii as "Sepsis Day". Sepsis is a serious medical condition that can quickly take over a human body in the form of an overwhelming immune response to infection that could result in death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Global Sepsis Alliance recognizes September 13 as World Sepsis Day.

Recognizing an event such as "Sepsis Day" can promote health awareness and education to the people of Hawaii. With the increased numbers of Denge and Zika outbreaks this could possibly reduce the amount of complications that can result such as Sepsis. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Sincerely,

Sherrienne Chow