

April 17, 2017 at 10:30am
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair (HMS)
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair (HMS)
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair (CPH)
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair (CPH)

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President & Government Relations

Re: HCR161 – Relating to Complex Patients

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President and Government Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I write in support of HCR161 which requests the convening of a working group relating to complex patients.

The current Medicaid level of reimbursement for long-term care facilities does not match the cost of providing services to health care patients with medically complex needs. This makes it difficult for hospitals to locate a placement for patients who no longer need acute care yet have complex medical needs because the costs are prohibitively high for long-term care facilities. Convening a workgroup to find the best solution to this issue will improve the flow of patients through the health care continuum and preserve access to health care in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i Pacific Health strongly supports the creation of this much needed workgroup and would be willing to participate and be part of this dialogue.

Thank you for your consideration of this important topic and for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR161.