



February 7, 2017

Senator Josh Green, MD
Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

SB1155: Relating to improving access to psychiatric care for Medicaid patients

LETTER IN SUPPORT

Dear Senator Green and Committee Members:

I am writing to express the support of the Hawaii College of Emergency Physicians for SB1155. We support the legislature's efforts to work with psychiatrists to improve and expand psychiatric care in Hawaii.

Emergency physicians in Hawaii see the devastating effects of psychiatric illness on patients and their families every day in our emergency departments. The best way to prevent emergency psychiatric crises is through consistent, high-quality psychiatric care. There is good evidence from other states that SB1155 would improve access to quality psychiatric care for our most vulnerable patients.

Please support this innovative approach for the benefit of our patients.

Sincerely,

William Scruggs, MD, RDMS, FACEP
Chair, Emergency Department
Castle Medical Center
Immediate Past President
Hawaii College of Emergency Physicians