

HB 1906 HD2

Measure Title: RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS.

Report Title: Health Care Worker; Intentionally Cause Bodily Injury; Felony Penalty

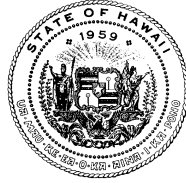
Description: Makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony. (HB1906 HD2)

Companion: [SB2491](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH, JDC

Introducer(s): MIZUNO, CACHOLA, NISHIMOTO, Evans, Kobayashi



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1906 HD2
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS.**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 20, 2018 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of HB1906 HD2, which
3 is to extend protections for health care workers who are vulnerable to attack beyond those in the
4 emergency room. Health care settings should safe environments for patients and staff regardless
5 of their role or position. This measure will improve the conditions not only in the private sector,
6 but also in government. Currently, only department staff employed at the Hawaii State Hospital
7 have specific protections under section 707-711, Hawaii Revised Statutes, so the broader
8 protections of HB1906 HD2 will benefit the Department of Health both as an employer and
9 provider of care.

10 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Tuesday, March 20, 2018
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1906, H.D. 2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE
WORKERS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing (“Board”). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1906, H.D. 2, Relating to Health Care Workers. The Board supports this bill, which is a companion to S.B. 2491.

This measure makes it a Class C felony for intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker.

According to an article by the U.S. News & World Report¹, nurses and other health care workers increasingly face physical assaults and injuries, often from the patients they are trying to help. Physical abuse, such as scratching, biting, and pushing, by adult patients takes health care workers away from their assignments, as they may become patients themselves. In addition, the emotional effect of physical abuse may impact the health care worker’s performance and prevent the performance of duties, thereby adversely affecting the provision of health care services. This measure would help make health care workers feel safer and reduce the threat of violence against them.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 1906, H.D. 2.

¹ Lisa Esposito, *Nurses Face More Violence from Hospital Patients*, U.S. News & World Report, Jan. 18, 2017, <https://health.usnews.com/wellness/articles/2017-01-18/nurses-face-more-violence-from-hospital-patients>.

HB-1906-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:05:38 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Kutzer	Testifying for Hawaii Nurses Association, OPEIU local 50	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

My name is Joan Kutzer. I am a Registered Nurse and a member of the Hawaii Nurses Association Board of Directors. Hawaii Nurses Association is in strong support of HB 1906. There have been horrific cases of violence against nurses in the news nationwide in the last few years. The incidence of threats and violence is on the rise. A February 1, 2018 article in Medscape discussed the shocking prevalence of sexual harassment, inappropriate communication, as well as physical threats to Healthcare providers.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Kutzer, RN, Hawaii Nurses Association



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Tuesday, March 20, 2018; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 1906, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1906, House Draft 2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Clarify the offense of assault in the second degree to include a person who intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person who is either:
 - (A) Engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility;
 - (B) Engaged in providing home health services as defined in Section 431:10H-201, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS); or
 - (C) Employed or contracted to work by a mutual benefit society who provides case management services to an individual in a hospital, in a health care provider's office, in the home, or in any other setting while that person is engaged in the performance of those services;

[NOTE: The penalty for assault in the second degree is a Class C felony.]

- (2) Provide a savings clause that ensures that the Act not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date; and

Testimony on House Bill No. 1906, House Draft 2
Tuesday, March 20, 2018; 9:00 a.m.
Page 2

(3) Take effect on January 1, 2050.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

As employers, FQHCs have an obligation to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of their employees, volunteers, patients, and patients' friends and family who accompany or visit patients at FQHC facilities. To the extent that this measure serves as a deterrent to violence perpetrated against health care workers, HPCA wholeheartedly supports this effort.

Yet, it should also be noted that when violence is committed against a health care professional, especially when it occurs at a health care facility, a crime is committed not only against the individual, but against all of society. When persons go to a health care professional, it is when that person is most vulnerable -- he or she is sick, or injured, or stressed from concern over a loved one. These places have long been held as sanctuary. During war, hospitals were marked on their rooftops with red crosses so that they would not be bombed.

When violence is committed against a health care professional or at a health care facility, it harms all of society. It causes sick or injured persons to hesitate before seeking help, which might exacerbate their condition. It also dissuades persons from entering the field of health care. At a time when Hawaii is facing unprecedented shortages in physicians, nurses, specialists, and other health care professionals, especially in rural areas, incidents of violence against health care professionals or at health care facilities may likely cause youths to consider other fields for future employment.

HPCA notes that Section 706-662, HRS, provides criteria for extended terms of imprisonment for persons already convicted of certain crimes. Once a person is convicted of a crime, that person arguably does not have the same rights and privileges afforded to a normal citizen. From a public policy standpoint, this Legislature has already held that in certain circumstances, when a person is convicted of a crime that is deemed egregious and especially heinous, such as a hate crime or when the victim is elderly, or handicapped, the judge is authorized to sentence the person convicted to a longer sentence. In this way, justice is served by acknowledging that such actions harm all of society and are thus deserving of a more severe punishment.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

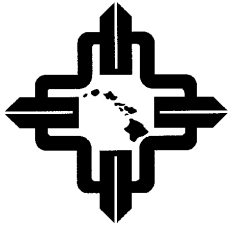
HB-1906-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 2:26:24 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher D. Flanders, D.O.	Testifying for Hawaii Medical Association	Support	Yes

Comments:



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

"Quality Healthcare For All"

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

March 20, 2018
Conference Room 229
9:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 1906, HD2 Relating to Health Care Workers.
Makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to certain health care
worker a Class C felony.**

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

As CEO of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) I am testifying on behalf of the Corporate Board of Directors and all of the HHSC regions. HHSC's employees are essential to our mission to provide accessible, high quality, cost-effective services that address the healthcare needs of Hawaii's unique island communities. Our concern for our employees' welfare and safety, along with all healthcare workers in our community, is expressed in our **strong support** for HB 1906, HD2.

As noted in this year's Annual Report to the Legislature HHSC's facilities provide a substantial portion of the healthcare across the state in a variety of settings. In Fiscal Year 2017, HHSC hospitals provided 22,253 acute care admissions, 605 long-term admissions and 121,290 emergency room visits in addition to outpatient services with a total workforce of 4,133 full time personnel. Each employee deserves our full effort to protect them. This measure alone will not solve the problem of increasing violence in healthcare settings but along with other strategies shows our commitment to increase safety for our employees, and by doing so, assure high quality care for our patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Specialist

Before:
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

March 20, 2018
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Re: HB1906 HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB1906 HD2, which expands protections for healthcare workers from assaults.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i SUPPORTS HB1906 HD2, but requests an AMENDMENT.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i is Hawai‘i’s largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for nearly 251,000 members. Each day, more than 4,300 dedicated employees and approximately 450 Hawai‘i Permanente Medical Group physicians come to work at Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i to care for our members at Moanalua Medical Center and our 27 medical clinics, providing high-quality care for our members and delivering on our commitment to improve the health of the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

Violence against healthcare personnel appears 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. This type of violence, ranging from verbal to violent physical attacks, is becoming all too common, which negatively impacts medical personnel by reinforcing a common misconception that this type of violence is “just part of the job.”

Currently, under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes § 707-711, there are additional penalties for a defendant that “intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury” to certain classes of workers, such as educational workers, employees of a state-operated or -contracted mental health facility, firefighters or water safety officers who are engaged in the performance of duty, and emergency medical services providers. While emergency medical services providers cover *some* of the employees of healthcare facilities, it is limited to those providing services in the emergency room of a hospital. Healthcare workers, as defined in HB1906 HD2, are vulnerable in their professions,

just like the other protected classes, and should be afforded the additional security that HRS § 707-711 provides.

While cases of assault and violence against employees of Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i do not occur to the same frequency when compared to some of the other acute-care hospitals and clinics in the state, we have had many incidents, some of which are quite severe. These incidents have had a direct and indirect effects on our employees' health, morale, and well-being.

A previous draft of HB1906 included protections for a larger number of vulnerable healthcare workers. As currently drafted, HB1906 HD2 protects only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, dentists, psychologists, nurses and pharmacists; however, there are many more types of healthcare workers who interact directly with patients who are at risk of being attacked. Other workers in our facilities include physician assistants, nurse aides, certified nurse anesthetists, respiratory therapists, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, administrators, orderlies, and security personnel. Thus, Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i requests that the original language from HB1906 be restored to cover these individuals.

On Section 1, Page 4, Line 18 to read as follows:

(j) The person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility as defined in section 323D-2. For purposes of this paragraph, "a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility" shall include health care professionals as defined in section 451D-2,
administrators, students, volunteers, and any other workers who support the functions of the health care facility; or

We respectfully request consideration of this amendment. Mahalo for your consideration of this important measure.

HB-1906-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 10:25:26 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy S. Aruga	Testifying for Hilo Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:

I, Tracy S. Aruga, am in full support of HB1906. Healthcare worker protection is needed in today's toxic environment, especially in the Emergency Rooms where nurses are constantly battling combative patients.



March 20, 2018

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: HB 1906, HD2 – Relating to Health Care Workers

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 1906, HD2, which makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to certain health care workers a Class C felony.

HMSA supports the of intent of this measure, to extend protection to certain health care workers to the same degree as other existing protected classes vulnerable to attack.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on HB 1906, HD2.


Sincerely,

Pono Chong
Vice-President, Government Relations



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From:  Paula Yoshioka, Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 16, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Hearing; Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 9AM in Room 229

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers**

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am the Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs at The Queen's Health Systems. We would like to express our **strong support** with requested amendments for HB 1906 HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers. Under current law, it is a misdemeanor to assault a health care worker. This bill would make it a Class C felony to intentionally or knowingly cause bodily harm to health care workers in a facility, home health care workers, and case management workers in the home.

Queen's concurs with the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) that this legislation would rightfully recognize the risks that health care employees face just going to work. It is currently a felony to assault certain classes of workers including: correctional workers, education workers, employees of state operated or contracted mental health facilities, emergency medical service workers, firefighters, and water safety officers. We believe that the threats that our health care workers face every day qualifies them to be included in this group.

There has been an increase in the amount of violence on health care workers over the years. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 11,200 workers in the health care and social assistance industry were intentionally injured by another person requiring days away from work.¹ From 2002 to 2013, these incidents were four times more common in healthcare than in private industry average.² Internally we have tracked an increase in the number of assaults reported to security personnel and risk management (See Figure 1). Nevertheless, we find that our security personnel are only notified in the most serious cases and the true numbers of assaults are likely higher than reported.

Sometimes these incidents can lead to serious injuries for our staff resulting in medical treatment, disability claims, and leaves of absence (See Figure 2). Costs to the health care system are also

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (2015). Table R4. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by industry and selected events or exposures leading to injury or illness, private industry, 2015. <https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/case/ostb4756.pdf>

² Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Workplace Violence in Healthcare. December 2015. <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3826.pdf>

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.

significant. In FY 2017 Workers' Compensation related costs from combative patients cost the system \$376,781, which was a 118% increase from FY 2016 (See Figure 3).

We ask for your support in including all health care workers in the protections afforded to others in high-risk occupations. This legislation will address this costly, emotional issue and help our health care workers to feel better protected while they carry out their line of work and help raise morale. This is especially important amid Hawaii's shortage in our medical workforce. Further, this change will align us with the eight other states that treat assault against any healthcare worker as a felony.

A previous version of this measure included protections for a larger number of vulnerable workers. The current draft protects only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, dentists, psychologists, nurses and pharmacists. There are many more types of healthcare workers who interact directly with patients who are at risk of being attacked. They include physician assistants, nurse aides, certified nurse anesthetists, respiratory therapists, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, administrators, orderlies, and security personnel. **We would request that the original language be restored to cover these individuals.** The amended section (j) would read:

(j) The person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility as defined in section 323D-2. For purposes of this paragraph, "a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility" shall include health care professionals as defined in section 451D-2, administrators, students, volunteers, and any other workers who support the functions of the health care facility; or

We commend the legislature for introducing this measure. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Attachment: Figures 1, 2, and 3

Figure 1. Incidents at The Queen's Medical Center Punchbowl and West Oahu

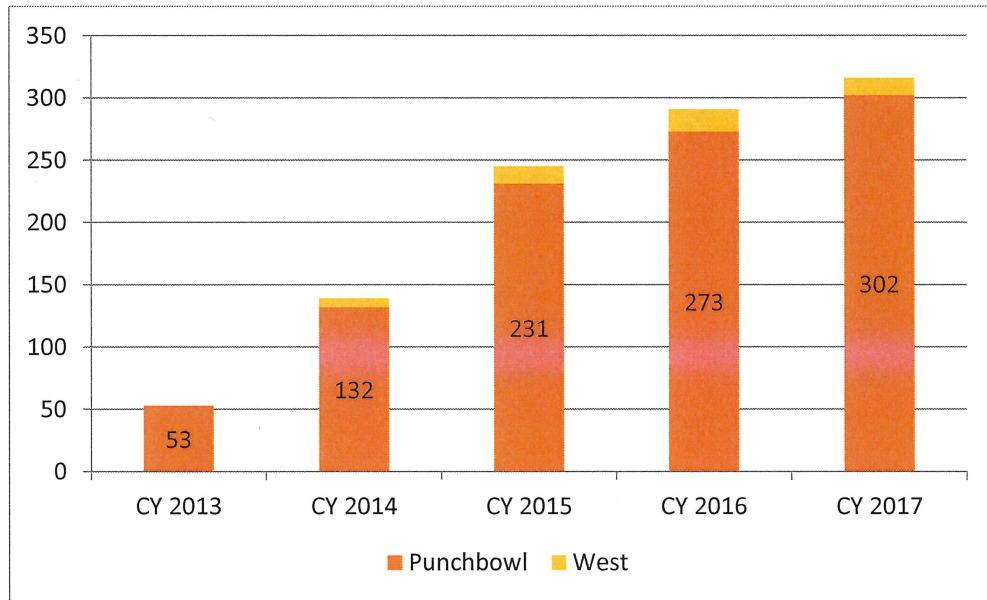


Figure 2. Workers Compensation Staff Injuries from Combative Patients – All Four Hospitals

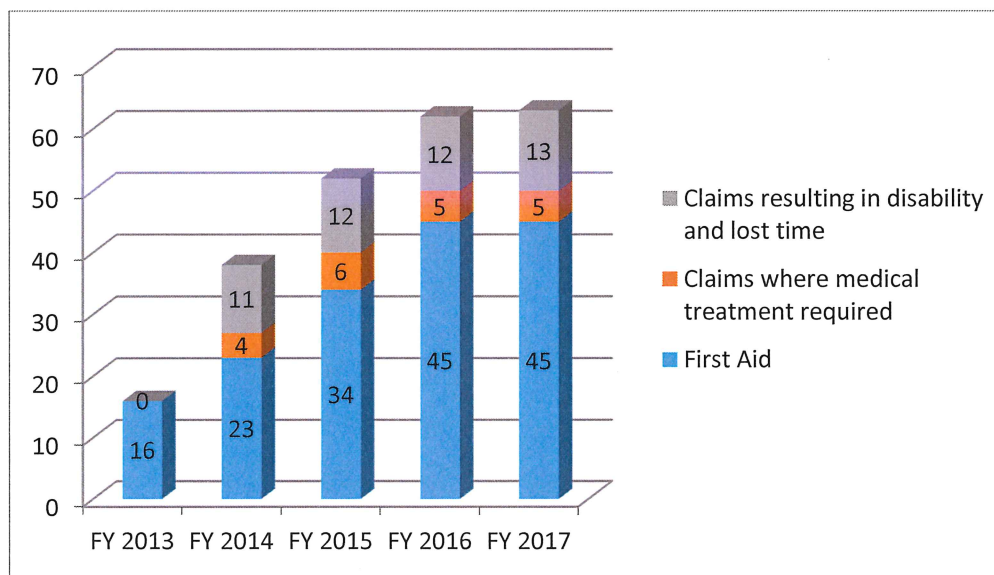
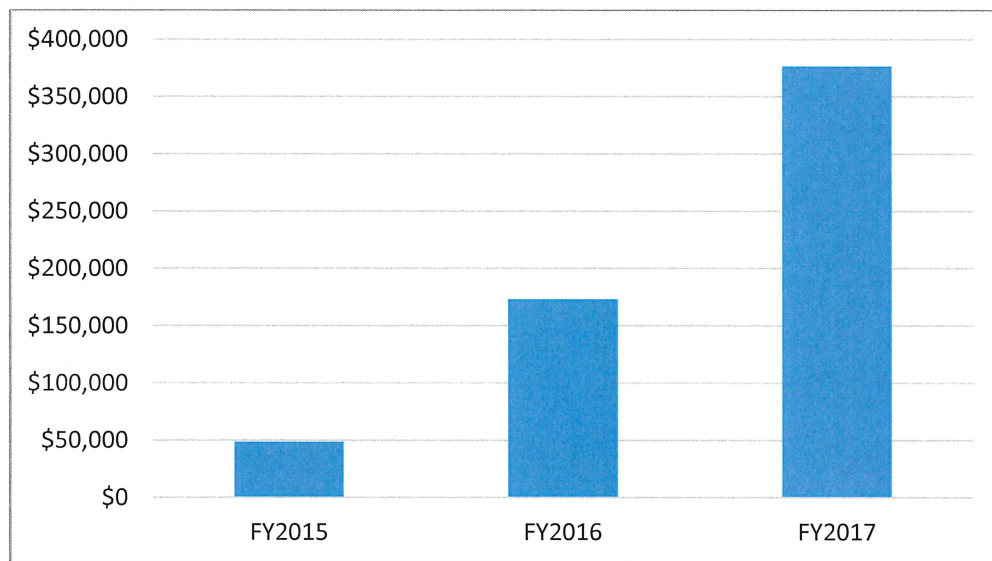


Figure 3. Costs Related to Workers' Compensation Incidents Involving Combative Patients





THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Madeline (Mimi) Harris, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, The Queen's Health Systems
Madeline Harris

Date: March 16, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Hearing; Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 9AM in Room 229

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers**

My name is Mimi Harris and I am a Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at The Queen's Health Systems. I would like to express my **strong support** with requested amendments for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers. Under current law, it is a misdemeanor to assault a health care worker. This bill would make it a Class C felony to intentionally or knowingly cause bodily harm to health care workers and staff in a facility, home health care workers, and case management workers in the home.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 11,200 workers in the health care and social assistance industry were intentionally injured by another person requiring days away from work.¹ From 2002 to 2013, these incidents were four times more common in healthcare than in private industry average.² Our nurses are particularly vulnerable. A 2015 study surveying more than 700 registered nurses at a private hospital system in Virginia reported that 76 percent had experienced physical or verbal abuse from patients and visitors in the previous 12 months. About 30 percent said they had been physically assaulted.³

In my role as the Chief Nursing Officer for Queen's, I participate in daily safety rounds where I hear the nurses' stories of assault by patients and visitors firsthand. Each situation can be highly traumatic and we do our best to support and protect our nurses and other staff from abuse. However, we have found that should the victim wish to press charges against their attacker, the penalty for assault will vary based on the class and location of health care worker. It is currently a felony to assault certain classes of workers including: correctional workers, education workers, firefighters, water safety officers, employees of state operated or contracted mental health

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Table R4. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by industry and selected events or exposures leading to injury or illness, private industry, 2015. <https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/case/ostb4756.pdf>

² Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Workplace Violence in Healthcare. December 2015. <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3826.pdf>

³ Journal of Emergency Nursing. 2014 May;40(3):218-28; quiz 295. doi: 10.1016/j.jen.2013.05.014. Epub 2013 Sep 17. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24054728>

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.

facilities, and emergency medical service workers including those who work in Emergency Departments.

Assaults do not stop at the doorway of the Emergency Department. Our nurses want to know that they are protected by law that will apply equally if they work in the Emergency Department or in an inpatient unit elsewhere in the hospital. The threats that nurses and other health care workers face every day in the performance of their duties to provide quality care to the sick and vulnerable qualifies all hospital staff to be included in the protected class of workers.

A previous version of this measure included protections for a larger number of vulnerable workers. The current draft protects only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, dentists, psychologists, nurses, and pharmacists. There are many more types of healthcare workers who interact directly with patients who are at risk of being attacked. They include physician assistants, nurse aides, certified nurse anesthetists, respiratory therapists, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, administrators, orderlies, and security personnel. **I would like to request that the original language be restored to cover these individuals.** The amended section (j) would read:

(j) The person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility as defined in section 323D-2. For purposes of this paragraph, "a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility" shall include health care professionals as defined in section 451D-2,
administrators, students, volunteers, and any other workers who support the functions of the health care facility; or

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Boyd Hurley, Security Manager, The Queen's Medical Center
Date: March 16, 2018
Hrg: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Hearing; Tuesday,
March 20, 2018 at 9AM in Room 229

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers**

My name is Boyd Hurley and I am a Security Manager at The Queen's Medical Center. I would like to express my **strong support** with requested amendments for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers. Under current law, it is a misdemeanor to assault a health care worker. This bill would make it a Class C felony to intentionally or knowingly cause bodily harm to health care workers and staff in a facility, home health care workers, and case management workers in the home.

I have been employed at The Queen's Medical Center for about 25 years. Within the past few years there has been a big increase in violence against hospital staff, especially assault cases that are intentional and unprovoked. Below are a few examples of firsthand accounts collected from staff at The Queen's Medical Center Punchbowl campus.

Assault on a Nurse

A nurse went to a patient's room to change the bed linens and give the patient a bed bath. While she was changing the patient out of his clothing, he attacked her and punched her in the head with both an open and closed fist multiple times before she was able to get away. She ran out of the room and notified Security. The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) was called and arrested the perpetrator. The nurse sustained injuries to the top of her head and her face.

Assault on a Security Officer

One of my security officers was called to an outpatient department on a report of a male sitting in the waiting room for a while with no appointment. The security officer responded and approached the male to ask if he had an appointment. The male did not answer, got up, and walked out towards the lobby. He forgot to grab a bag that was alongside his chair so the security officer grabbed the bag and followed the male to the lobby to return it to him. When the officer approached the male and told him he forgot his bag on the floor, the male without any warning turned and punched my officer in the face causing him to fall to the ground. The male then jumped on the officer and continued to assault him. The officer was limp and defenseless during the assault. Just at that moment, another security officer saw the assault occurring, detained the male, and put him in handcuffs. The injured officer was transported to the

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.

Emergency Department (ED) where he was treated for injuries to his nose and left eye socket. The perpetrator was arrested by HPD.

Assault on a Nurse Aide

A nurse aide at the patient's bedside informed the patient she will be changing him out of his hospital pajamas for a clean set. Without any warning the patient swung his leg around kicking the nurse aide in the face causing her to fall to the ground. The patient got out of the bed, straddled her on the ground, and continued to strike her in the head and body with a closed fist. She yelled for help and somehow managed to get him off of her and ran out of the room. Security was called and HPD was notified.

Assault on a Security Supervisor

A security supervisor was called by staff to stand by the room of a patient who had already assaulted four nurses during his stay. The security supervisor arrived on the unit and stood by the doorway while staff prepared to go in the room to provide treatment. When the security supervisor turned his back to the patient to answer a question from a staffer outside the room, the patient got out of bed and struck him in the face with a closed fist. The security supervisor fell to the ground, but managed to protect himself and subdue the patient while other staff responded to assist. The security supervisor suffered injury to the nose and eye socket and HPD was called.

These are just a few examples of the kind of violence our hospital staff faces every day. I believe that this legislation would rightfully recognize the risks that our employees face just going to work. It is currently a felony to assault certain classes of workers including: correctional workers, education workers, employees of state operated or contracted mental health facilities, emergency medical service workers, firefighters, and water safety officers. The threats that we face every day qualifies all health care workers and auxiliary staff to be included in this group.

A previous version of this measure included protections for a larger number of vulnerable workers. The current draft protects only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, dentists, psychologists, nurses, and pharmacists. There are many more types of healthcare workers who interact directly with patients who are at risk of being attacked. They include physician assistants, nurse aides, certified nurse anesthetists, respiratory therapists, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, administrators, orderlies, and security personnel. **I would like to request that the original language be restored to cover these individuals.** The amended section (j) would read:

(j) The person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility as defined in section 323D-2. For purposes of this paragraph, "a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a

health care facility" shall include health care professionals as defined in section 451D-2, administrators, students, volunteers, and any other workers who support the functions of the health care facility; or

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Anthony Talley, Security Officer, The Queen's Medical Center
Date: March 16, 2018
Hrg: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Hearing; Tuesday,
March 20, 2018 at 9AM in Room 229

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers**

My name is Anthony Talley and I am a Security Officer at The Queen's Medical Center. I would like to express my **strong support** with requested amendments for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers. Under current law, it is a misdemeanor to assault a health care worker. This bill would make it a Class C felony to intentionally or knowingly cause bodily harm to health care workers and staff in a facility, home health care workers, and case management workers in the home.

In current law it is a felony to assault certain classes of workers, such as: correctional workers, education workers, employees of state operated or contracted mental health facilities, firefighters, water safety officers, and emergency medical service workers including those work in Emergency Departments. As a Security Officer at a hospital, I am not part of the protected class of workers; however, I often work alongside staff who are and yet someone who assaults me would be subject to a misdemeanor and not a felony.

For example, one day while I was working in the back of the Emergency Department (ED), I was asked by ED staff to standby and assist with a patient in the hallway. The patient was visibly intoxicated and became belligerent. I called another Security Officer to assist and there were about three other ED staff present as well. The patient stood up off the gurney, yelled, and punched me in the mouth for no known reason. All staff and myself escorted the patient to the floor for his safety and to prevent further injury to anyone else. We then escorted the patient into a different room where he spat onto the face of the other Security Officer. I checked into the ED for my injuries and called the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) to file charges. I was later subpoenaed to court where the accused was sentenced to serve about a month of time and ordered to take classes. They counted time served so he was released the same day of the ruling. However, if he had punched an ED staffer standing next to me in the incident, that would have been a felony instead of a misdemeanor.

I believe that this legislation rightfully recognizes the risks that our employees face just going to work. The threats that we face every day qualifies health care workers and other auxiliary staff to be included in this group.

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.

A previous version of this measure included protections for a larger number of vulnerable workers. The current draft protects only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, dentists, psychologists, nurses, and pharmacists. There are many more types of healthcare workers who interact directly with patients who are at risk of being attacked. They include physician assistants, nurse aides, certified nurse anesthetists, respiratory therapists, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, administrators, orderlies, and security personnel. **I would like to request that the original language be restored to cover these individuals.** The amended section (j) would read:

(j) The person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility as defined in section 323D-2. For purposes of this paragraph, "a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility" shall include health care professionals as defined in section 451D-2, administrators, students, volunteers, and any other workers who support the functions of the health care facility; or

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Kapunahеле Montgomery, Cardiovascular Services Director, The Queen's Medical Center

Date: March 16, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Hearing; Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 9AM in Room 229

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers**

My name is Kapunahеле Montgomery and I am the Cardiovascular Services Director at The Queen's Medical Center. I would like to express my **strong support** with requested amendments for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers. Under current law, it is a misdemeanor to assault a health care worker. This bill would make it a Class C felony to intentionally or knowingly cause bodily harm to health care workers and staff in a facility, home health care workers; and case management workers in the home.

A few months ago, we cared for a Telemetry patient that needed monitoring. He was violent and required sedation because he was a danger to self and others. After the sedation wore off, he began screaming in the room and pillaged the sharps container, stabbing himself with the needles. An extremely daunting individual (6'5", 300lbs), he was verbally abusive and threatened the nurses with bodily harm. Thankfully, one of our nurses was able to "talk him down" and take care of him for the rest of the shift. She and the other staff on that night were emotionally traumatized and required multiple debriefs to help support their well-being in the ensuing weeks.

In our mission to care for our patients, health care workers are subject to the same risks to harm that other professionals encounter. Patients and families need to recognize that we too place ourselves in harm's way to improve the well-being and health of our patients.

I believe this legislation rightfully recognizes the risks that our staff face just going to work. It is currently a felony to assault certain classes of workers including: correctional workers, education workers, employees of state operated or contracted mental health facilities, emergency medical service workers, firefighters, and water safety officers. I think the threats that we face every day qualifies health care workers and other auxiliary staff to be included in this protected group.

A previous version of this measure included protections for a larger number of vulnerable workers. The current draft protects only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, dentists, psychologists, nurses, and pharmacists. There are many more types of healthcare workers who interact directly with patients who are at risk of being attacked. They include physician

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.

assistants, nurse aides, certified nurse anesthetists, respiratory therapists, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, administrators, orderlies, and security personnel. **I would like to request that the original language be restored to cover these individuals.** The amended section (j) would read:

(j) The person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility as defined in section 323D-2. For purposes of this paragraph, "a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility" shall include health care professionals as defined in section 451D-2,
administrators, students, volunteers, and any other workers who support the functions of the health care facility; or

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Vincent J. Nip, M.D., Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery, The Queen's Health Systems
Date: March 16, 2018
Hrg: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Hearing; Tuesday,
March 20, 2018 at 9AM in Room 229

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers**

My name is Dr. Vincent Nip and I am a Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery at The Queen's Medical Center. I would like to express my **strong support** with requested amendments for HB 1906, HD2, Relating to Health Care Workers. Under current law, it is a misdemeanor to assault a health care worker. This bill would make it a Class C felony to intentionally or knowingly cause bodily harm to health care workers and staff in a facility, home health care workers, and case management workers in the home.

I am a plastic and reconstructive surgeon working at The Queen's Medical Center caring for patients with craniofacial trauma and soft tissue injuries. I have been serving these patients for over 25 years. These patients come in for many injuries sustained by various mechanisms resulting in facial fractures, broken cheek, jaw and eye socket bones, just to name a few. Some are a result of MVAs, assaults, sporting injuries, self-inflicted gunshot wounds. Many have complex facial lacerations, abrasions, and avulsions along with their bony injuries.

What I have come to realize over the years is that the injuries are the same but the patient population has changed. What does that mean? The new patient population is frequently belligerent, confrontational, angry, non-compliant, and downright nasty. I've said many times of late "I love the surgeries; I am challenged by the patient population" who often do not appreciate the quality care they are provided. I can accept this to some degree, but I cannot accept when they become verbally and potentially physically abusive. Terroristic threats to physically harm me have been made by patients, necessitating me to get authorities involved, short of requesting a TRO for my protection. I have found myself in a situation in the hallway of a unit when a family member confronted me with an invitation for a "MMA" brawl. I don't think he was being humorous. Nurses have been recipients of verbal abuse by patients and report to me. I am then put in a position to take control of the situation.

In an era of heightened awareness of abuse and harassment, I am quite surprised that physical, emotional, and psychological harm to health care providers is a misdemeanor.

I believe that this legislation would rightfully recognize the risks that our staff face just going to work. It is currently a felony to assault certain classes of workers including: correctional

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.

workers, education workers, employees of state operated or contracted mental health facilities, emergency medical service workers, firefighters, and water safety officers. I think the threats that we face every day qualifies health care workers and other auxiliary staff to be included in this protected group.

A previous version of this measure included protections for a larger number of vulnerable workers. The current draft protects only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, dentists, psychologists, nurses, and pharmacists. There are many more types of healthcare workers who interact directly with patients who are at risk of being attacked. They include physician assistants, nurse aides, certified nurse anesthetists, respiratory therapists, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, administrators, orderlies, and security personnel. **I would like to request that the original language be restored to cover these individuals.** The amended section (j) would read:

(j) The person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility as defined in section 323D-2. For purposes of this paragraph, "a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility" shall include health care professionals as defined in section 451D-2, administrators, students, volunteers, and any other workers who support the functions of the health care facility; or

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
HB 1906 HD2
RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

by
Stephen A. Kula, PhD, NHA
President and CEO
Legacy of Life Hawaii

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health
Chair Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice Chair Jill N. Tokuda

Tuesday, March 20, 2018; 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Baker and Vice Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of Legacy of Life Hawaii in strong support of HB 1906 HD 2, to increase protections of vulnerable healthcare workers.

Currently, licensed healthcare workers in the emergency room are protected under law, but all other healthcare workers are not. Legacy of Life Hawaii supports the requirement that all healthcare workers be afforded the security that his law provides.

For 30 years Legacy of Life Hawaii has been saving lives through the generosity of organ and tissue donors who have given the gift of life so others may live. As the only federally designated organ procurement organization (OPO) in Hawaii, Legacy of Life Hawaii employs a clinical team that partners with acute and critical care hospitals on the

care and support of potential organ/tissue donors. Together they form a team that includes nurses, physicians, advanced practitioners, social workers, and other healthcare professionals, all working toward a common goal to provide comfort to grieving families while maintaining hope that another life can be saved as an outcome. These employees are trained to manage aggression and violence prevention, but they should not have to be afraid to do their work.

This legislation would rightfully recognize the risks that healthcare employees face at work. There are several classes of workers that are protected under Hawaii state law, including workers in prisons or emergency medical service technicians. We believe that the threats, intimidation and assaults that our healthcare workers face every day qualifies them to be included in this group. This legislation is also important because it will help us to increase morale and retain talented employees, especially amid a shortage in our medical workforce. Further, all members of the community can also feel safer when seeking essential health services in facilities. Importantly, this legislation only applies to those who intentionally or knowingly assault a healthcare worker. Individuals with mental illness will not be penalized by this legislation.

This legislation will help healthcare workers feel better protected while they carry out the work of taking care of members of our community. I, therefore, urge this committee to give HB 1906 HD2 your favorable consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of Legacy of Life Hawaii in strong support.



March 20, 2018 at 9:00 AM
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice Chair Jill N. Tokuda

From: Paige Heckathorn
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 1906 HD 2, Relating to Healthcare Workers

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 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** HB 1906 HD 2, which would increase protections for vulnerable healthcare workers. We would also **request amendments** to ensure these protections are afforded to the necessary workers. This protection is needed because of the high rates of violence against healthcare workers in Hawaii. Healthcare workers are vulnerable in their professions, just like the other protected classes, and should be afforded the security that this law provides. Currently, healthcare workers in the emergency room are protected under law, but all other healthcare workers are not. We are seeking parity for all workers through this legislation.

There are rising rates of assault and violence against healthcare workers in Hawaii. A survey of HAH members found that, in 2017, there were 1,175 incidents of assault against workers, a record number. This included assaults that occurred in hospitals, nursing homes, and against home health workers who entered a patient's residence. In 39% of those cases, the local police department was contacted. (In the other set of cases, the facility's security handled the matter.)

Healthcare workers, like the other classes of employees who enjoy greater protection under the law, are particularly vulnerable in their positions. Many healthcare facilities, including hospitals and community health centers, generally offer unrestricted access to the public. Most anyone can come into these facilities with no screening. Facilities in high-risk areas may experience more violent behavior, and long wait times or overcrowded waiting rooms may exacerbate the issue.

Phone: (808) 521-8961 | Fax: (808) 599-2879 | HAH.org | 707 Richards Street, PH2 - Honolulu, HI 96813

Affiliated with the American Hospital Association, American Health Care Association, National Association for Home Care and Hospice, American Association for Homecare and Council of State Home Care Associations

It is well-documented that all healthcare workers face high rates of violence on the job. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rates of nonfatal workplace violence against healthcare workers are from 5-12 times higher than for workers overall. The rate of nonfatal workplace violence against all workers was 2.8 incidents per 10,000 workers. For hospital workers, the rate was 14.7 incidents per 10,000 workers and for nursing and residential workers the rate was an astonishing 35.3 incidents per 10,000 workers.

These are not just numbers—there are real stories behind these assaults. We've heard stories from our members that are disturbing and disheartening. One facility described a patient who threatened fatal injury to nurses, and another where a nurse was grabbed by the neck and partially dragged. Home care agencies and other providers who go into homes also note that they are often intimidated with physical violence with no security.

The current system is simply not working. Currently, assault against a healthcare worker in a hospital or nursing home is considered a misdemeanor. What we have heard from members is that, because of the lesser charge, the perpetrators of the assault are usually getting off with a "slap on the wrist". Healthcare workers feel as if they have gone through a major trauma, but that, in the end, there are no real consequences for the person who assaulted them. Some facilities have even expressed their concern that repeat offenders may be allowed on campus.

This legislation would rightfully recognize the risks that healthcare employees face just going to work. There are several classes of workers that are protected under Hawaii state law, including workers in prisons or emergency medical service technicians. We believe that the threats, intimidation and assaults that our healthcare workers face every day qualifies them to be included in this group. This legislation is also important because it will help us to increase morale and retain talented employees, especially amid a shortage in our medical workforce. Further, all members of the community can also feel safer when seeking essential health services in facilities. Importantly, this legislation only applies to those who intentionally or knowingly assault a healthcare worker. Individuals with mental illness will not be penalized by this legislation.

A previous version of this measure included protections for a larger number of vulnerable workers. The current draft protects only physicians, surgeons, podiatrists, dentists, psychologists, nurses and pharmacists. There are many more types of healthcare workers who interact directly with patients who are at risk of being attacked. They include physician assistants, nurse aides, certified nurse anesthetists, respiratory therapists, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, social workers, administrators, orderlies, and security personnel. We would request that the original language be restored to cover these individuals. The amended section (j) would read:

(j) The person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility as defined in section 323D-2. For purposes of this paragraph, "a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility" shall

include health care professionals as defined in section 451D-2, administrators, students, volunteers, and any other workers who support the functions of the health care facility; or

This legislation will help our healthcare workers feel better protected while they carry out the work of taking care of members of our community. Thank you for your consideration of this measure and the requested amendments.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 20, 2018

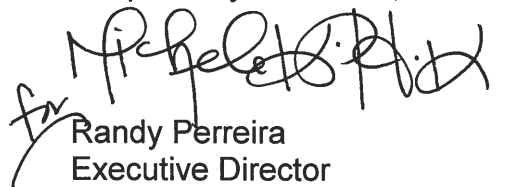
H.B. 1906, H.D. 2 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1906, H.D. 2 which makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony.

We firmly believe that violence against health care workers should be added to the offense of a Class C felony. Similar protection already exists for teachers, other educational workers emergency medical technicians, and employees who work in a correctional or detention facility. Passage of this legislation will send a clear message that if a patient or family member seriously assaults a nurse or other health care worker, that individual can be prosecuted and imprisoned. Health care workers have significantly higher rates of on-the-job nonfatal assaults and the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that health care providers are at 16 times greater risk for violence than other workers. Nurses are often the primary targets of nonfatal assaults and psychiatric nurses have the highest rate of assault.

Health care providers do not deserve to be subjected to violence while caring for patients and this bill should offer some protection. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,


for Randy Perreira
Executive Director

Tuesday, March 20, 2018; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair

From: Gail Lerch
Executive Vice President of Human Resources & Organizational Effectiveness

Re: HB 1906, HD2 – Testimony in Support

My name is Gail Lerch, and I am the Executive Vice President of Human Resources & Organizational Effectiveness for 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.

HPH supports HB 1906, HD2 which creates an offense of assault in the second degree if a person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a health care or human services professional engaged in the performance of their duties at a health care facility, or to a person who is engaged in providing home health care services, or to a person employed by or contracted to work by a mutual benefit society who provides case management services to an individual in the hospital, health care provider's office or home.

All health care and human services professionals today face a significant increase in the number of job related violent incidents while on duty compared to other workers. Statistics show that there has been an increase in the number of nurses that have experienced assaults, and this is of great concern. Additionally, at our hospitals, our staff has been experiencing an increase in encounters with violent patients. Passage of this bill will help to deter assaults and provide a safer environment for all medical service workers. This in turn would encourage individuals to seek professions in the health care field as well as retain those professionals already in the field.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB-1906-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:55:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carm Akim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Legislators,

Please take your time to watch this video

<http://zdoggmd.com/say-something/>

This is just a glimpse of what we endure as healthcare providers. Please help us. Protect the healers not hurt them.

HB-1906-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 5:49:38 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Trinh-Ng	Testifying for Hawaii Nurses Association OPEIU Local 50	Support	No

Comments:

I submit this testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 1906. I urge you to **PASS** this bill to help protect the healthcare workers of Hawai'i. Over the years, healthcare workers have been subjected to increasing acts of violence from patients and/or their families. In news across our country, patients have gone as far as savagely beating, raping, holding hostage at gunpoint, stabbing, or shooting healthcare workers. As healthcare providers, we have seen the patients at their worst. We do our best and give it our all to aid these patients back to health to the best we can. At times, even if we give it our all, the outcome cannot be changed, no matter how much we want to. We understand that a hospitalization is never expected and often a stressful event for the patient and their loved ones. But that is no excuse to dehumanize healthcare workers. The sense of entitlement that some patients and their families come to the hospital with is appalling. They have unrealistic expectations as to how they will be serviced and will turn hostile towards staff becoming verbally, emotionally, mentally, and, physically abusive. 75% of all workplace violence occurs in the healthcare setting. At any other place of work, if someone came and began assaulting a worker, whether or not they were sound of mind, there would be immediate repercussions that followed. Why then, when it happens inside of a hospital, it's ignored or allowed to be swept under the rug? How does being in our profession make it OK to be repeatedly subjected to such violence? This is not a part of our job description.

As healthcare workers, we can be silent no more. We must say something. Our brothers and sisters of this industry are literally dying from violence by patients or their families. We are not asking for special treatment as the Office of Public Defenders implied. We are asking that you recognize that with 75% of all workplace violence occurs in the healthcare field. This is not by accident. This is because we healthcare workers are vulnerable to our patients and their families. We ask for you to please **PASS** this bill to hold those who hurt us accountable. Thank you.