

Testimony of  
Jonathan Ching  
Government Relations Specialist

Before:  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

March 29, 2018  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 016

**Re: HB1906 HD2 SD1, Relating to Health Care Workers**

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB1906 HD2 SD1, which expands protections for healthcare workers from assaults.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i SUPPORTS HB1906 HD2 SD1**

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 SD1, 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.

Mahalo for your consideration of this important measure.



**March 29, 2018 at 9:30 AM**  
**Conference Room 016**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

To: Chair Brian T. Taniguchi  
Vice Chair Karl Rhoads

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

**Re: Testimony in Support**  
**HB 1906 HD 2 SD 1, 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 SD 1, which would increase protections for vulnerable healthcare 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.

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.

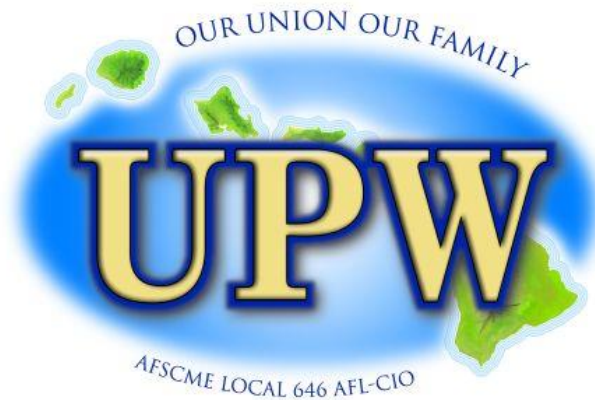
These are not just numbers—there are real stories behind these assaults. We've heard stories from our members that are disturbing and disheartening. One facility described a patient who threatened fatal injury to nurses, and another where a nurse was grabbed by the neck and partially dragged. Home care 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.

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.





THE HAWAII STATE SENATE  
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Thursday, March 29, 2018  
TIME OF HEARING: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Conference Room 016

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1906, HD2, SD1 HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

HB1906, HD2, SD1 establishes that if a person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to certain healthcare workers; the act is a class c felony. A person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a healthcare facility is defined in section 323D-2. It also includes health care professionals as defined in section 451D-2, administrators, students, volunteers, and other workers who support the functions of the neatly care facility.

The UPW **strongly supports** this bill.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony.






## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Judiciary

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

Date: March 27, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Judiciary Decision Making; Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 9:30AM in Room 016

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, Relating to Health Care Workers**

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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** for HB 1906 HD2, SD1, 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 injury to certain health care workers.

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.<sup>1</sup> From 2002 to 2013, these incidents were four times more common in healthcare than in private industry average.<sup>2</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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.*

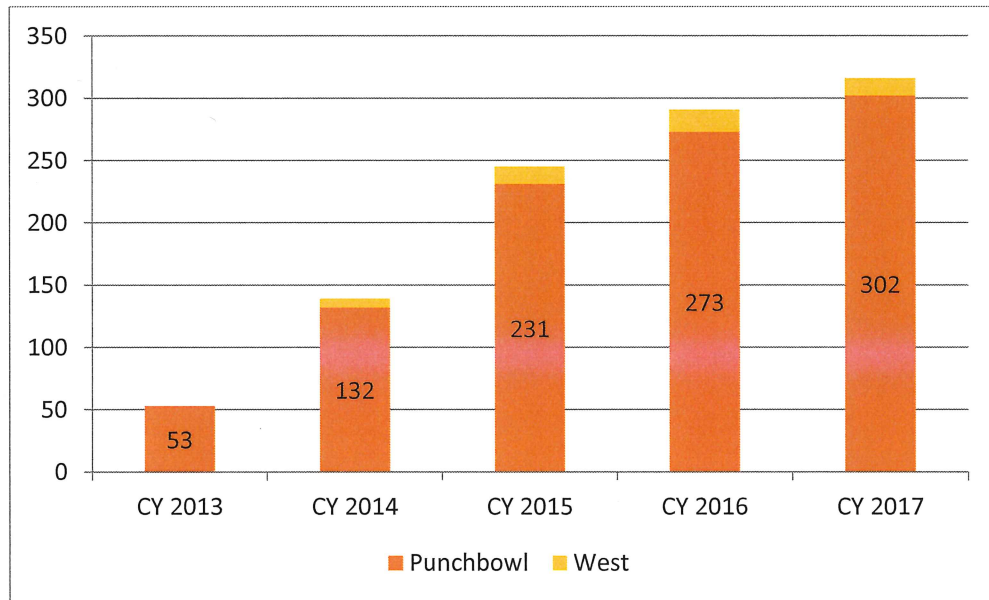
significant. In FY 2017 Workers' Compensation related costs from combative patients cost the system \$376,781, which was a 118% increase from FY 2016 (See Figure 3).

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.

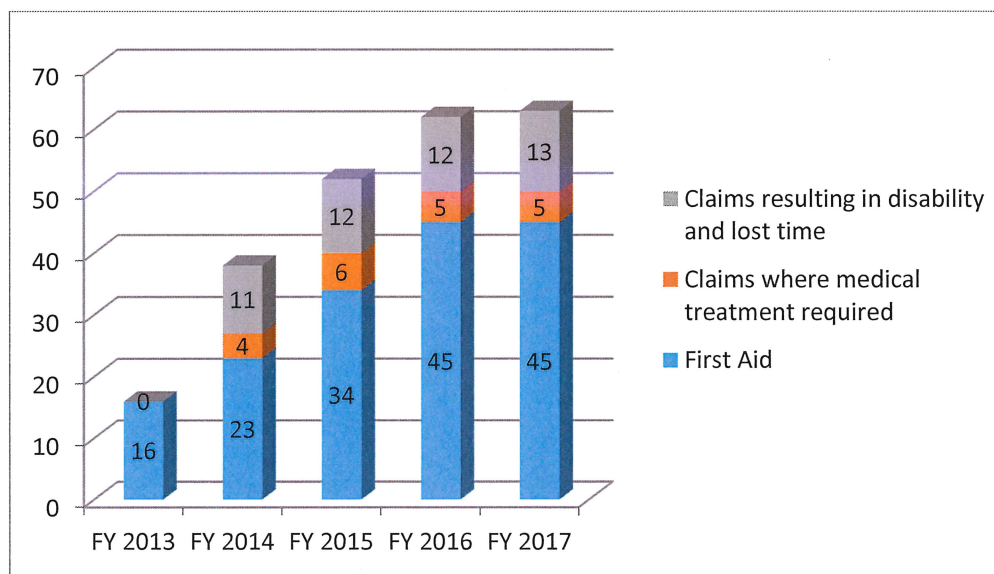
We commend the legislature for introducing this measure. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

**Attachment: Figures 1, 2, and 3**

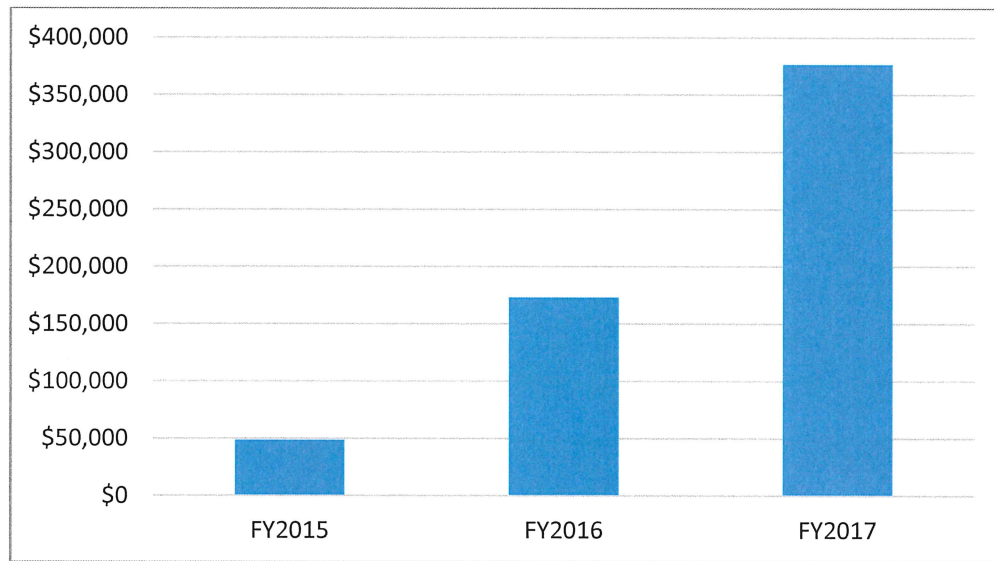
**Figure 1. Incidents at The Queen's Medical Center Punchbowl and West Oahu**



**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 Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Judiciary

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

Date: March 27, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Judiciary Decision Making; Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 9:30AM in Room 016

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, 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** for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, 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 injury to certain health care workers.

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.<sup>1</sup> From 2002 to 2013, these incidents were four times more common in healthcare than in private industry average.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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>

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

<sup>3</sup> 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>

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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.

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





## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Judiciary

From: Boyd Hurley, Security Manager, The Queen's Medical Center

Date: March 27, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Judiciary Decision Making; Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 9:30AM  
in Room 016

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, Relating to Health Care Workers**

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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** for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, 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 injury to certain health care workers.

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

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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.

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



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Judiciary

From: Anthony Talley, Security Officer, The Queen's Medical Center

Date: March 27, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Judiciary Decision Making; Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 9:30AM  
in Room 016

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, Relating to Health Care Workers**

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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** for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, 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 injury to certain health care workers.

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.

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

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## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Judiciary

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

Date: March 27, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Judiciary Decision Making; Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 9:30AM in Room 016

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, Relating to Health Care Workers**

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My name is Kapunahale Montgomery and I am the Cardiovascular Services Director at The Queen's Medical Center. I would like to express my **strong support** for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, 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 injury to certain health care workers.

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.

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

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## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Judiciary

From: Vincent J. Nip, M.D., Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 27, 2018

Hrg: Senate Committee on Judiciary Decision Making; Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 9:30AM  
in Room 016

Re: **Support for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, Relating to Health Care Workers**

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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** for HB 1906, HD2, SD1, 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 injury to certain health care workers.

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 workers, education workers, employees of state operated or contracted mental health facilities,

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V. Nip M.D., The Queen's Health Systems

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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.

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



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 29, 2018

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: HB 1906, HD2, SD1 – Relating to Health Care Workers

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify **in support with amendments** on HB 1906, HD2, SD1 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, but urges the Committee to consider including provisions in the HD2 version of the Bill which would extend protection to persons who are employed or contracted by a mutual benefit society. Many of our case managers visit health care facilities and patient's homes. The proposed amendment would provide the same protections as those this bill seeks to protect. We believe that they are in the same vulnerable position, if not more in some cases, as those who regularly work in a healthcare facility. The amendment that HMSA worked on with the Attorney General's Office that was included in the HD2 version is below:

The person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person, employed or contracted to work by a mutual benefit society, as defined in section 432:1-104, to provide case management services to an individual in a hospital, health care provider's office, or home, while that person is engaged in the performance of those services."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for considering our suggested amendments.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong  
Vice-President, Government Relations



**Office of the Public Defender  
State of Hawaii**



**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawaii  
to the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

**March 27, 2018**

H.B. No. 1906, HD1, SD1: RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Chair Brian T. Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender strongly opposes H.B. 1906. This measure would automatically elevate a misdemeanor assault against a health care worker to a class C felony when it involves a person who acts intentionally or knowingly to cause bodily injury.

This measure adds health care workers to the growing number of occupations which have been singled out for special protection against misdemeanor assaults in the normal course of their employment. While we understand the desire to carve out special protections for certain classes of individuals who may be assaulted in the normal course of their employment, we believe this measure is just another example of the expansion of misdemeanor level assaults to felony level assaults – **not** based on the act itself or the harm done but based on the job description of the victim. Over the years, this list has grown to include many special categories and occupations.

It is our position that **all** employees should feel safe as they go about performing their requisite duties. We believe that with the passage of time, more and more special categories and occupations will be added to this list. As the list grows, additional employees and groups will be asking whether they should also request special consideration and be included for special protection. Enhanced penalties for assaults committed upon health care workers will **not** have a concomitant effect on their safety. The assumption that enhanced penalties will deter individuals from harming a certain class of individuals is false. Most citizens do not follow legislative action and do not give pause to possible penalties when acting out of situational emotion and anger nor when acting out because of stress or mental health issues.

Of particular concern is the reasoning in the preamble for this measure - that health care workers may be less likely to report assaults under the offense of assault in the third degree, in part because a violation of that offense is a misdemeanor and therefore is capable of being expunged from the offender's record and subject to a time served sentence. Health care workers have the same rights as other citizens and they have the same opportunities to pursue justice if they are a victim of crime – their failure to pursue



justice should not be a rational or legitimate reason for a crime to be elevated to a felony. In essence, the preamble is saying this bill is necessary because health care workers are disinclined to make police reports and can't be bothered to call the police or report crime at the misdemeanor level.

We also believe the flood gates of special protection requests are now wide open in light of the growing list of special employment categories to the assault statute. We urge caution and we ask the Legislature to reevaluate the necessity for this measure and the necessity of expanding the ever-growing list of elevated assault offenses based on employment status.

Misdemeanor and felony assaults are already clearly defined by the specific act committed and by the result of the conduct. Bootstrapping people who may be experiencing extreme stress, or pain, or emotional reactions while in a health care facility with felony offenses for misdemeanor level behavior is unnecessary and an overreaction. Assaults can happen anywhere – in any occupation or any workspace or even in public spaces or in the privacy of a home.

We strongly oppose H.B. 1906 and thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to this committee.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2018

Thursday, March 29, 2018  
9:30 a.m.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1906, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS.**

TO THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, 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 submit written testimony in support of H.B. 1906, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to Health Care Workers.

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 Report<sup>1</sup>, 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 written testimony in support of H.B. 1906, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Thursday, March 29, 2018; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 1906, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS.**

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, 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, Senate Draft 1, 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; or
  - (B) Engaged in providing home health services as defined in Section 431:10H-201, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS); or

**[NOTE: The penalty for assault in the second degree is a Class C felony.]**
- (2) Clarify that "a person who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility" includes health care professionals, administrators, students, volunteers, and any other workers who support the functions of the health care facility
- (3)) 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
- (3) Take effect on July 1, 2035, to facilitate continued discussion.

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 2:27:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher D. Flanders, D.O.	Testifying for Hawaii Medical Association	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1906-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 11:59:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elena Cabatu	Testifying for Hilo Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:

Hilo Medical Center is in full support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 and protecting our 1,100 employees and physicians.

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**

**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

Tracy S. Aruga / Safety Officer

As one of the over 1,300 health workers in the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I would like submit my **support for HB1906 HD2 SD1**, relating to health care workers that makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony. This bill would increase protections for me and my fellow healthcare workers at our hospitals in Hilo, Honokaa and Kau, including our ten outpatient clinics.

This healthcare worker protection bill is needed because of the high rates of violence against healthcare workers across the nation, and the growing problem of violence against these 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.

There are rising rates of assault and violence against healthcare workers in Hawaii. At Hilo Medical Center, the largest hospital on Hawaii Island, 20 incidents of assault were against our employees in the last year. Of these incidents, 95% of the assaults were carried out by patients resulting in a total cost of \$400,000 to our facility.

These are not just numbers—there are real stories behind these assaults. The current system is simply not working. 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. **HB1906 HD2 SD1** will help our healthcare workers feel better protected while they carry out the work of taking care of members of our community. Please help us protect our workers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

Thursday, March 29, 2018; 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 016

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

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

**Re: HB 1906, HD2, SD1 – Testimony in Support**

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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, SD1 which creates an offense of assault in the second degree if a person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to a person 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.

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.



**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**

**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ Terry Larson, Executive Assistant \_\_\_\_\_

As one of the over 1,300 health workers in the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I would like submit my **support for HB1906 HD2 SD1**, relating to health care workers that makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony. This bill would increase protections for me and my fellow healthcare workers at our hospitals in Hilo, Honokaa and Kau, including our ten outpatient clinics.

This healthcare worker protection bill is needed because of the high rates of violence against healthcare workers across the nation, and the growing problem of violence against these 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.

There are rising rates of assault and violence against healthcare workers in Hawaii. At Hilo Medical Center, the largest hospital on Hawaii Island, 20 incidents of assault were against our employees in the last year. Of these incidents, 95% of the assaults were carried out by patients resulting in a total cost of \$400,000 to our facility.

These are not just numbers—there are real stories behind these assaults. The current system is simply not working. 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. **HB1906 HD2 SD1** will help our healthcare workers feel better protected while they carry out the work of taking care of members of our community. Please help us protect our workers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

**HB-1906-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 12:18:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-1906-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 2:45:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel H Belcher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1906-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 12:21:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the honorable committee members,

My name is Jennifer Trinh-Ng. I am a registered nurse and Hawaii Nurses Association member. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong **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 recent news across our country, patients have gone as far as savagely beating, raping, holding hostage at gunpoint, stabbing, or shooting and killing 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 as 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 atrocious. 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. 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. This is unacceptable and it is time to protect the healers and hold their assailant(s) responsible.

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 inflicted by patients or their families. We are not asking for special treatment as the Office of the Public Defender implied with their testimony stating, that we healthcare workers "desire to carve out special protections for certain classes of individuals who are assaulted in the normal course of their employment." How is being assaulted while providing care to patients a "normal course" of our employment? Where in healing the sick and injured is it normal to be brutally assaulted, raped, stabbed, or shot and killed? We are simply asking that you recognize that 75% of all workplace violence occurs in the healthcare field. This is

not by accident. This is because healthcare workers work intimately to heal our patients and that makes us vulnerable to our patients and their families. I humbly ask for you to please **pass** this bill to hold those who hurt us accountable with a Felony Assault and not a misdemeanor. No one should ever go to work fearing for their safety. Especially not people whose calling in life is to help others.

Lastly, I would like to ask for the consideration of an amendment to this bill that would expedite this act to become in effect immediately or within the coming year. For us to wait until 17 years before we are able to be protected by this act is simply too long. We need this now. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Trinh-Ng, BSN RN  
HNA OPIEU Local 50



**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 Judiciary

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 29, 2018

H.B. 1906, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 –  
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, S.D. 1 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,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

March 29, 2018 at 9:30am  
Conference Room 016



**House Committee on Judiciary**

To: Chair Brian Taniguchi  
Vice Chair Karl Rhoads

From: Dee Robinson  
Administrator  
One Kalakaua Senior Living

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 1906 HD 2 SD 1, Relating to Violence Against Healthcare Workers**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 1906 HD 2 SD 1, which would make it a felony to assault any healthcare worker in a healthcare facility or in an individual's home that they are working at. Healthcare workers across the state, work diligently and tirelessly every day to meet the medical needs of ill patients from all walks of life. There has been an increasing rise in the number of serious workplace violence situations leading to serious injury of our healthcare workers here in Hawaii.

I am frustrated with the current system. Currently, assault against a healthcare worker in a hospital, nursing home, assisted living facility or other similar healthcare setting, is considered a misdemeanor. Because of this lesser charge, the perpetrators of such assaults are getting away with a slap on their wrist. Meanwhile, the employee may feel as if they have gone through this very traumatic situation of being assaulted, suffering injuries, filing charges, going to court and then in the end the perpetrator has no real consequences. In some cases the offenders may even be allowed back in the facility.

Passing this legislation would rightfully recognize the risks that healthcare employees face going to work each day. There are several classes of workers that are protected under Hawaii state law, including workers in prisons or emergency medical service technicians. I believe that the threats that our healthcare workers face every day should qualify them to be included in these groups. Please support this bill and include all healthcare workers in the protections afforded to others in high-risk occupations.

In a time when it is very difficult to attract and retrain workers in our healthcare profession, this legislation is critical. While I understand that this may not necessarily deter this crime, I am sure that it will definitely improve the morale among our healthcare professionals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 1906 HD 2 SD 1.

**HB-1906-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 6:33:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Ward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE: Nicole Ward, RN, BSN, CMSRN

As one of the over 1,300 health workers in the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I would like submit my **support for HB1906 HD2 SD1**, relating to health care workers that makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony. This bill would increase protections for me and my fellow healthcare workers at our hospitals in Hilo, Honokaa and Kau, including our ten outpatient clinics.

This healthcare worker protection bill is needed because of the high rates of violence against healthcare workers across the nation, and the growing problem of violence against these 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.

There are rising rates of assault and violence against healthcare workers in Hawaii. At Hilo Medical Center, the largest hospital on Hawaii Island, 20 incidents of assault were against our employees in the last year. Of these incidents, 95% of the assaults were carried out by patients resulting in a total cost of \$400,000 to our facility.



These are not just numbers—there are real stories behind these assaults. The current system is simply not working. 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. **HB1906 HD2 SD1** will help our healthcare workers feel better protected while they carry out the work of taking care of members of our community. Please help us protect our workers.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

**HB-1906-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2018 10:19:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2018 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Chelsea Valiente and I am a registered nurse here in the state of Hawaii. I am in strong support of HB1906 because I know what it is like to be in a dangerous work environment. Day in and day out we, healthcare workers, around the world place ourselves at great risk when caring for others. At times these assaults on healthcare workers are done intentionally and should be punishable by a class C felony. Please help to protect the people that serve our community by passing HB1906. Thank you.

Respectfully Yours,

Chelsea Valiente, BSN, RN



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018  
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
 PLACE: Conference Room 016  
 State Capitol  
 415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE FAJULIN ABAIDILLA, PHARMACY TECH

As one of the over 1,300 health workers in the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I would like submit my support for HB1906 HD2 SD1, relating to health care workers that makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony. This bill would increase protections for me and my fellow healthcare workers at our hospitals in Hilo, Honokaa and Kau, including our ten outpatient clinics.

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Thank you for your consideration of this measure.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018  
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
 PLACE: Conference Room 016  
 State Capitol  
 415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Nelson Nako, Dir of Pharmacy

As one of the over 1,300 health workers in the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I would like submit my support for HB1906 HD2 SD1, relating to health care workers that makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony. This bill would increase protections for me and my fellow healthcare workers at our hospitals in Hilo, Honokaa and Kau, including our ten outpatient clinics.

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Thank you for your consideration of this measure.





HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018  
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
 PLACE: Conference Room 016  
 State Capitol  
 415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Kedrick CPHN

As one of the over 1,300 health workers in the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I would like submit my support for HB1906 HD2 SD1, relating to health care workers that makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony. This bill would increase protections for me and my fellow healthcare workers at our hospitals in Hilo, Honokaa and Kau, including our ten outpatient clinics.

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Thank you for your consideration of this measure.




HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018  
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
 PLACE: Conference Room 016  
 State Capitol  
 415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Megan Hirae Pharmacist 

As one of the over 1,300 health workers in the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I would like submit my **support for HB1906 HD2 SD1**, relating to health care workers that makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony. This bill would increase protections for me and my fellow healthcare workers at our hospitals in Hilo, Honokaa and Kau, including our ten outpatient clinics.

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Thank you for your consideration of this measure.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

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 TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
 PLACE: Conference Room 016  
 State Capitol  
 415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 Technician

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HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

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**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018  
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
 PLACE: Conference Room 016  
 State Capitol  
 415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Julie Kubo Pharmacist

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Wilfredo Agngaray / Laundry Worker I

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Marc Wailani Laundry Helper

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Crawford Gonsalves Laundry Worker I

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

**NAME/TITLE** William Andrade / Laundry Helper I

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Dinah Reyes / Laundry Helper

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Howard Kamei Laundry Worker

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Traig Thompson Laundry Worker I.

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE MICHAEL THOMPSON / LAUNDRY WORKER 1

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Shelah Dawson Laundry Helper

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Auralie Kirkland- Laundry Worker I

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NAME/TITLE Lois Velez clerk

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NAME/TITLE Martin Border Nurse Aide 

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Michelle Silva

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Bernie Tanomaga, RN

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Katse Keppen, RN

As one of the over 1,300 health workers in the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I would like submit my support for HB1906 HD2 SD1, relating to health care workers that makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony. This bill would increase protections for me and my fellow healthcare workers at our hospitals in Hilo, Honokaa and Kau, including our ten outpatient clinics.

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Thank you for your consideration of this measure.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Alona Rocha / RN

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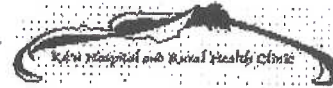
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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE *M. Conra*

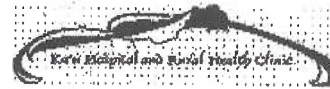
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NAME/TITLE Ruth Transfiguration / RN

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Kelly Okada, RN Kelly Okada

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Jolene Hughes

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**NAME/TITLE Karen Gomez Jerrillo RN

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE

Chad Shibuya, RN

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Elizabeth Valdez / CNA

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE MIRACLE MATSUMOTO / BIOMED CLERK IV

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*Miracle Matsumoto*





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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Robert Linne Biomedical Engineering Supervisor

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE LINDA WAKEFIELD, Biomed Tech II

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NAME/TITLE

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NAME/TITLE MARIBETH GANNON CNA

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NAME/TITLE Matthew Morehouse / CNA

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NAME/TITLE Marie Bourcier Clerk IV

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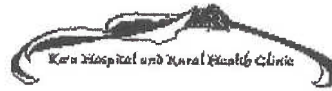
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HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018  
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
 PLACE: Conference Room 016  
 State Capitol  
 415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Chloe O'Neill, private Secretary

As one of the over 1,300 health workers in the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I would like submit my **support for HB1906 HD2 SD1**, relating to health care workers that makes intentionally or knowingly causing bodily injury to a health care worker a Class C felony. This bill would increase protections for me and my fellow healthcare workers at our hospitals in Hilo, Honokaa and Kau, including our ten outpatient clinics.

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NAME/TITLE Elena Hanashiro, Clerk Typist III

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NAME/TITLE

*Sandra Withey*

*Rehas Chert*

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

**NAME/TITLE**

*Maryann Sullivan / Clerk IV - Rehab.*

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Lorilyn Montferrer PTA 3/27/18

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Walter J. Costa ER ASSISTANT

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Craig P. Hanna RN-III

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NAME/TITLE Rossie Williamson / SECURITY

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Bonifacio Smith / Security ED.

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NAME/TITLE Autai OASA / Security.

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NAME/TITLE HUMBERTO F. PUNTO / TRANSPORTER

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NAME/TITLE LORNA DASHILLO / TRANSPORTER

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Rachelle Halliday RN

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Vicky Capason, HUC

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NAME/TITLE Kelly Guthrie RN

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Alvin Namnana, RN

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Thank you for your consideration of this measure.





HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair**

**NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING**

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018  
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
 PLACE: Conference Room 016  
 State Capitol  
 415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Arleen E. Tamura-Arakaki

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NAME/TITLE Brendee Estada, RN

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

**NAME/TITLE** Le'Shell Dela Cruz / RN

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Maria Lee, RPN III

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*, RN

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Renee Lani Abella / CNR

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE April Lucas CNA

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**Hilo Medical Center**  
We Care for Our Community

**Hale Ho'ola Hamakua**  
A Haven of Modern and Traditional Health in Hamakua



**Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home**

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

**NAME/TITLE** Elizabeth Hernandez RN

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**Testimony in Support of HB1906 HD2 SD1 Relating to Healthcare Workers**

NAME/TITLE Kayla McArthur NA

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NAME/TITLE Gloria A. Bala CNA

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