



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

Testimony **COMMENTING on HCR126**
**REQUESTING THE STATE TO STRENGTHEN ITS EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS BY REPOSITIONING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLY
CACHES FROM OAHU TO THE NEIGHBOR ISLANDS**
REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

And

REPRESENTATIVE MATTHEW S. LoPRESTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
& CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Hearing Date: March 22, 2018

Room Number: 312

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of this resolution, but note that considerable
- 2 funding and resources would be required to accomplish the objectives of this measure. The
- 3 Department defers to the priorities set forth in the Governor’s Supplemental Budget Request.
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health concurs that strengthening emergency
- 5 preparedness statewide, in each county, is a vital objective. While the resolution does not
- 6 identify the specific “emergency medical supply caches,” the department does, through a grant
- 7 award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant
- 8 Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), fund the
- 9 Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management (HHEM) statewide healthcare coalition. HHEM,
- 10 contracted by the department and using HPP funds, maintains emergency medical supplies for
- 11 use in emergencies or disasters. Additionally, the department wishes to assure the committee
- 12 members that in the event of a major disaster or severe disease outbreak requiring medical
- 13 supplies beyond the scope of the state’s ability to provide, the Governor or Director of Health, or
- 14 designee, may request the U.S. Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to immediately activate to
- 15 provide medical assets to the state within 12 hours of such request. The department has plans in
- 16 place and regularly exercises with each county rapid response to deploy SNS supplies.
- 17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

3/22/2018

**House Committee on Public Safety
and
House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs &
Culture and the Arts**

HCR126

**Requesting the State to Strengthen Its Emergency Preparedness by
Repositioning Emergency Medical Supply Caches from Oahu to the Neighbor
Islands**

**Testimony of Christopher Crabtree, DrPH, CEM, CEDP
Director of Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition (HHEMC)**

The Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition (HHEMC) consists of 160 plus healthcare organizations and facilities across the State of Hawaii including all of the hospitals, all of the hospice providers, all of the federally qualified community health centers, most of the long term care facilities, interfacility ground and air ambulance providers, some pharmaceutical, clinical laboratory, medical gas, assisted living facilities, dialysis centers, and durable medical equipment providers, and **is opposed to this resolution.**

The HHEMC receives its funding from the federal government through the Hospital Preparedness Program and has already prepositioned its 100-bed field hospital system, decontamination systems, casualty management systems and limited medical support supply caches for healthcare facilities and organizations on the neighbor islands. A significant portion of the supplies are located on Oahu due to the lack of funding for restocking of expired items, the shipping cost and general maintenance cost to ensure that the items are maintained and functional, and finding an appropriate storage location, storage cost and ensuring accountability on all items. In addition, the stockpiles on Oahu utilize the process of stock rotation through some healthcare facilities to extend the shelf life. The neighbor islands do not have the volume to efficiently and effectively rotate a high number of medical supplies to extend shelf lives.

The HHEMC leverages all the healthcare facilities and organizations in Hawaii to assist member facilities with maintaining patient essential services and managing medical surge. The HHEMC also has warehouses that it maintains on Oahu with supplies and equipment to prepare, respond to, recovery from and mitigate healthcare major emergencies and disasters.



3/22/2018

Federal funding for the Hospital Preparedness Program in Hawaii was cut materially three years ago, and a further smaller cut is anticipated for the next fiscal year. Material additional funding would be necessary to enable the Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition to purchase medical supplies and equipment, restock and maintain these supplies and equipment for neighbor island healthcare providers, facilities and organizations.

Were additional funding available, the Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition would work with the neighbor island healthcare facilities and organizations to strategize options to store specific critical medical items within the existing healthcare infrastructure on the neighbor islands.

HCR-126

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 9:14:14 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/22/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HCR-126

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 4:44:59 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/22/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christopher crabtree	hawaii healthcare emergency management	Oppose	No

Comments: