

SB2487

Measure Title: RELATING TO HEALTH.

Report Title: Health; Quality Assurance Committees; Definition

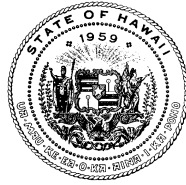
Description: Amends the definition of "quality assurance committee" to include committees established by long-term care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, home care agencies, hospices, and authorized state agencies. Allows for the creation of a quality assurance committee outside of a single health plan or hospital.

Companion: [HB1922](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH/HMS

Introducer(s): BAKER, KEITH-AGARAN, TOKUDA, Gabbard, Galuteria, Ihara, Ruderman



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2487
RELATING TO HEALTH.**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

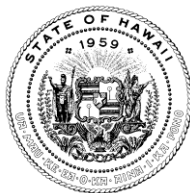
SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Hearing Date: February 5, 2018 Room Number: 016

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

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of SB2487, which
3 amends tort law to create a quality assurance committee outside of a single health plan or
4 hospital. A “safe harbor” within which health care entities may better plan, coordinate, and
5 manage a patient’s care as they move within the continuum of care is in the patient’s best interest
6 and consistent with emerging best practices of patient-centered care, e.g. medical homes.

7 The department respectfully urges the joint committee pass SB2487 to continue the public
8 debate.

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



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018**

**Monday, February 5, 2018
3:10 p.m.**

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2487 – RELATING TO HEALTH.

**TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER AND JOSH GREEN, CHAIRS, AND
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:**

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”) appreciates the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2487, Relating to Health. My name is Gordon Ito, and I am the Insurance Commissioner for the Department's Insurance Division. The Department supports this bill, which is a companion to H.B. 1922, and submits the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the definition of “quality assurance committee” to include committees established by long-term facilities, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, home care agencies, hospice, and authorized state agencies, thereby allowing for the creation of a quality assurance committee outside of a single health plan or hospital.

The Department supports efforts to reduce healthcare cost drivers by improving the care of high-need, complex patients. Better coordination will lead to improved health outcomes for patients, thereby helping to reduce healthcare costs and health insurance premium increases.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB-2487

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 12:17:56 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Ma	University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as a health care professional (pharmacist) and as a leader/administrator (Dean for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, UH Hilo) of a health professional academic program. Pharmacy practice is one of the professions that have become a key partner on inter-disciplinary health care teams. Certainly, pharmacists have long been in practice in the hospital and clinic setting. Other types of health care facilities are now either required by law, to have a pharmacist consultation to review medications in LTC's, or by an institution's desire to achieve "best practice" standards include pharmacy expertise on a regular basis. Establishing quality assurance and monitoring adherence to safety guidelines, adverse drug reactions, safe and effective drug choices, and monitoring for best outcomes is key in assuring highest level of care especially in vulnerable, high need and often times pharmacuetically and medically complex populations such as the elderly, and patients in the palliative care and hospice facilities. Establishing quality assurance committees is a standard method and is absolutely necessary and assures ongoing review and adjustments in best practice can be implemented on a timely and consistent basis.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of this bill.

SB-2487

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 4:13:01 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	Hilo Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:

Please accept the following statement from my CEO, Dan Brinkman:

“As a founding member of Community First, I, Dan Brinkman, East Hawaii Regional CEO would like to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of SB 2487** Relating to Health on behalf of Hilo Medical Center. This bill would enable the Community Care Improvement Team to have protected quality assurance (QA) discussions when discussing cases which cut across medical and social service providers. This kind of interdisciplinary group, with representatives from all the service providers impacting a person’s health outcomes, will be instrumental in developing a comprehensive, coordinated, community system of care for high need patients. Mahalo for the committee’s consideration of this bill.”

SB-2487

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 12:21:27 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse Ebersole	HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide the enclosed testimony in support of Senate Bill 2487 related to the definition of Quality Assurance Committees.

As part of the Hawaii Fire Departments Community Paramedicine Pilot program I have been a member of the East Hawaii Community Action Network. Our membership is comprised of representatives of the various health care service providers in the East Hawaii region of Hawaii Island along with many of the social service and non-profit service providers.

Over the past year, our organization has been meeting on a monthly basis with the goal of identifying issues and gaps in the health care system and how they may be causing or contributing to complex health issues of community members. These complex health conditions often result in high costs and significantly impact the limited available resources. Through these forums it has been demonstrated that assessing the problems from a truly comprehensive perspective to include the participation of non-medical service providers is invaluable. In many cases it is the social determinants or non-medical needs of patients that may be greatly affecting their health and health care needs.

The Community Action Network would like to continue to provide the forum and venue for our member organizations to assess and evaluate the challenges and gaps within the health care system and expand upon our objectives to include the conducting of case review under the concept of "quality assurance". In order to provide for that objective and activity, the current statute language defining Quality Assurance Committees would need to be amended to provide for consistency between the respective chapters and to include the provisions for an "interdisciplinary committee". As previously mentioned, the opportunity and platform for medical and non-medical or social service providers to convene to review and discuss health care in the most comprehensive manner is not only effective but essential and invaluable to identifying the problems and developing and implementing the best solutions with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of care and life for our community members.

I would respectfully ask for your support of SB2487 amending the definition of “Quality Assurance Committee”.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ebersole

EMS Captain

Hawaii Fire Department

COMMUNITY FIRST BILL

Formerly
HOSPICE of HILO

February 5, 2018

1011 Waiānue Avenue
Hilo, HI, 96720-2019
P: (808) 969-1733
F: (808) 961-7397

care@hawaiicarechoices.org
www.hawaiicarechoices.org

RE: Request for Support
Community First Bill
Enables Quality Assurance of Care across Medical and Social Services
SB 2487 related to Amendment of the definition of “Quality Assurance Committee”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Paul Ferreira

Vice President
William Hartman, MD

Secretary
Claire Shigeoka

Treasurer
Haidee Abe

MEMBERS

Tom DeWitt, Ph.D.
Jeracah Lawless
Rev. Junshin Miyazaki
Susan Mochizuki
Roy Nakamoto
Clarysse Nunokawa
Marcie Saquing
Christine Takahashi
Kevin Wilcox, MD

Medical Director
Lynda Dolan, MD

Hospice Physician
Craig Shikuma, MD

Chief Executive Officer
Brenda S. Ho, MS, RN

Director of Operations
Shirley S. Dellinger, MHRM

Director of Clinical Services
Kevin D. Larkin, RN, MA

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Julie-Beth Ako
Sidney M. Fuke
David Hammes
Randy W. Hu
Jane Y. Iida
Kerwin Iwamoto
Diana Kahler
Peter K. Kubota, Esq.
Karen T. Maedo
Karen A. Moriuchi
James K. Nakagawa
Alan K. Okinaka
Cynthia K. Sorenson
Leonard S. Tanaka
Audrey Wilson

Dear Chair Baker and Chair Green,

As a long term resident of Hawaii Island, the CEO of Hawaii Care Choices, a member of the Community First Regional Health Improvement Collaborative, a board member of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to present testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1922.

The Community Action Network (CAN), an action network developed out of Community First, is a steering committee comprised of representatives of the various health care service providers in the East Hawaii region of Hawaii Island along with social service and non-profit service providers. Our organization has been meeting monthly with the goals of identifying issues and gaps in the health care system and how they may be causing or contributing to complex health issues of community members. These complex health conditions often result in high costs and significantly impact the limited available resources. Through these forums it has been demonstrated that assessing the problems from a truly comprehensive perspective to include the participation of non-medical service providers is invaluable. In many cases it is the social determinants or non-medical needs of patients that may be greatly affecting their health and health care needs.

The Community Action Network would like to continue to provide the forum and venue for our member organizations to assess and evaluate the challenges and gaps within the health care system and expand upon our objectives to include the conducting of case review under the concept of “quality assurance”. In order to provide for that objective and activity, the current statute language defining Quality Assurance Committees would need to be amended to provide for consistency between the respective chapters and to include the provisions for an “interdisciplinary committee”.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 1922. Your support of this measure would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda S. Ho, MS, RN
Chief Executive Officer



February 5, 2018 at 3:10 PM
Conference Room 16

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

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

Chair Josh Green
Vice Chair Stanley Chang

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB 2487, Relating to Health

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.

We would like to thank the committees for the opportunity to **support** SB 2487, which would standardize the definition of a quality assurance committee in Hawaii Revised Statute. This measure would also enable medical and social service providers to work together, discuss, and propose solutions for the most difficult and complex cases they encounter. It is increasingly apparent that the needs and most pressing healthcare issues facing our communities require a multi-disciplinary response. Enabling dedicated providers and community members to collaborate more fully will promote the information-sharing needed to successfully address the medical and social reasons people fall into poor health.

This legislation will help providers address health disparities, bring down costs, and treat the non-medical determinants of health, and we would ask for your support of this measure. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

SB-2487

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 11:14:23 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike	Community First	Support	Yes

Comments:



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Monday, February 5, 2018

3:10 PM, Conference Room 016

SB2487 RELATING TO HEALTH

TESTIMONY OF

Barry Taniguchi, Chair of the Board

Mike Sayama, Executive Director

Chair Baker, Chair Green and Members of the Joint Committee:

Community First **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB2487. Quality Assurance (QA) Committees provide hospitals, health plans, long term care facilities, and other healthcare organizations with a mechanism to evaluate, monitor and improve quality of care; reduce patient risk and error; and assess the overall effectiveness of care provided to patients. **QA committees are well established and essential to our healthcare delivery system.**

QA committees can already be established in a licensed hospital, clinic, longterm care facility, skilled nursing facility, assisted living facility, home care agency, hospice, health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, preferred provider network providing medical, dental, or optometric care, or an authorized state agency. HRS § 624-25.5.

SB2487 merely provides liability protection for QA discussions for key healthcare organizations currently not covered in HRS § 624-25.5. In doing so, QA and peer review activities to evaluate and improve health care can be conducted in a wider array of health care facilities and providers.

Over the past three years, Community First has sought feedback and guidance from businesses, community organizations, health plans, healthcare providers, hospitals, social service organizations, consumers and other key stakeholders on ways to evaluate and improve our QA and peer review process. We strongly believe that SB2487 will enable more organizations and stakeholders to better evaluate and improve our health delivery system.

Please support SB2487. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2487

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:46:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darryl Oliveira		Support	Yes

Comments:

February 4, 2018

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

State of Hawaii

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker,

I would like to provide the enclosed testimony in support of Senate Bill 2487 related to the definition of Quality Assurance Committees.

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Community Action Network, a steering committee under the oversight of the Community First non-profit organization. Our membership is comprised of representatives of the various health care service providers in the East Hawaii region of Hawaii Island, along with many of the social service and non-profit service providers.

Over the past year, our organization has been meeting on a monthly basis with the goal of identifying issues and gaps in the health care system and how they may be causing or contributing to complex health issues of community members. These complex health conditions often result in high costs and place a significant demand on the limited available resources without measurable outcomes. We have determined that assessing the problems from a truly comprehensive perspective to include the participation of non-medical service providers is invaluable. In many cases it is the social factors or non-medical needs of patients that may be greatly affecting their health and health care needs.

The Community Action Network would like to continue to provide the forum and venue for our member organizations to assess and evaluate the challenges and gaps within the health care system and expand upon our objectives to include the conducting of case review under the concept of "quality assurance". In order to provide for that objective and activity, the current statute language defining Quality Assurance Committees would need to be amended to provide for consistency between the respective chapters and to include the provisions for an "interdisciplinary committee". As previously mentioned, the opportunity and platform for medical and non-medical or social service providers to convene to review and discuss health care in the most comprehensive manner is not only effective but essential and invaluable to identifying the problems and developing and implementing the best solutions with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of care and life for our community members.

I respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 2487 amending the definition of "Quality Assurance Committee". I welcome the opportunity to address any questions or concerns you may have. I can be contacted at oliveiradarryl@gmail.com or (808)987-8615.

Sincerely,

Darryl Oliveira

Co-Chair, Community Action Network

February 4, 2018

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services

State of Hawaii

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Green,

I would like to provide the enclosed testimony in support of Senate Bill 2487 related to the definition of Quality Assurance Committees.

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Community Action Network, a steering committee under the oversight of the Community First non-profit organization. Our membership is comprised of representatives of the various health care service providers in the East Hawaii region of Hawaii Island, along with many of the social service and non-profit service providers.

Over the past year, our organization has been meeting on a monthly basis with the goal of identifying issues and gaps in the health care system and how they may be causing or contributing to complex health issues of community members. These complex health conditions often result in high costs and place a significant demand on the limited available resources without measurable outcomes. We have determined that assessing the problems from a truly comprehensive perspective to include the participation of non-medical service providers is invaluable. In many cases it is the social factors or non-medical needs of patients that may be greatly affecting their health and health care needs.

The Community Action Network would like to continue to provide the forum and venue for our member organizations to assess and evaluate the challenges and gaps within the health care system and expand upon our objectives to include the conducting of case review under the concept of "quality assurance". In order to provide for that objective and activity, the current statute language defining Quality Assurance Committees would need to be amended to provide for consistency between the respective chapters and to include the provisions for an "interdisciplinary committee". As previously mentioned, the opportunity and platform for medical and non-medical or social service providers to convene to review and discuss health care in the most comprehensive manner is not only effective but essential and invaluable to identifying the problems and developing and implementing the best solutions with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of care and life for our community members.

I respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 2487 amending the definition of "Quality Assurance Committee". I welcome the opportunity to address any questions or concerns you may have. I can be contacted at oliveiradarryl@gmail.com or (808)987-8615.

Sincerely,

Darryl Oliveira

Co-Chair, Community Action Network