



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Late

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB889
RELATING TO PROFESSIONALLY LICENSED OR CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES.**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 7, 2017 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Avoided costs to the Department of Health on additional professional
2 liability insurance.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) ~~supports~~ SB889, Relating To
4 Professionally Licensed Or Certified Government Employees, which is submitted as part of
5 Governor Ige's administrative package through the Department of the Attorney General.

6 The department incurs significant risk as a provider of direct health care services by licensed or
7 certified professionals, including but not limited to physicians, nurse practitioners and registered
8 nurses, psychologists, clinical social workers, dentists, and dental hygienists. In the capacity of
9 a "provider of last resort," patients and clients whom the department serves are often medically
10 complex or fragile, to the point where the private health care system is unable or unwilling to
11 manage the liability.

12 Protections proposed by SB889 will benefit recruitment, retention, and overall risk management
13 activities, and minimize the need to purchase additional professional liability insurance for all
14 professionally licensed employees within the Department of Health.

15 **Offered Amendments:** N/A

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HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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Late

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 7, 2017

S.B. 889 - RELATING TO PROFESSIONALLY LICENSED
OR CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 889. This important legislation amends Chapter 662, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by providing professionally licensed or certified government employees the same privileges and legal immunities that other state employees currently receive.

More specifically, this bill will protect physicians, nurses, psychologists, engineers and other employees who are employed by the State of Hawaii when they exercise professional judgement in their capacity as public employees. Our organization represents many of these employees in various departments, statewide.

S.B. 889, if enacted, will enable the State of Hawaii to attract and retain employees who are licensed to provide services that are essential to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 889.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director