

SCR113

Measure
Title:

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE
PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES AND DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPAND PALLIATIVE
CARE SERVICES IN HAWAII.

Report Title:

Palliative Care Services; Working Group; Department of
Health

Description:

Companion:

Package:

None

Current
Referral:

CPH, WAM

Introducer(s):

BAKER, S. CHANG, ENGLISH, ESPERO,
HARIMOTO, IHARA, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI,
RUDERMAN, TOKUDA, Galuteria, K. Kahele, L.
Thielen, Wakai

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR113
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A WORKING
GROUP TO EXAMINE PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES AND DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPAND PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES IN HAWAII.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 23, 2018 Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports this resolution and encourages
- 3 greater community conversation on the issue of palliative care.
- 4 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

SCR-113

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 6:41:01 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/23/2018 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
2370 Nu`uanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817
808.432.9149
www.acscan.org

Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair

SCR 113 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPAND PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES IN HAWAII.

Cory Chun, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Pacific
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 113, which convenes a working group to examine specific actions to expand palliative care in the State.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization. ACS CAN works with federal, state, and local government bodies to support evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain and stress of a serious illness - from point of diagnosis onward. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

SCR 113 is a collaboration between ACS CAN and Kokua Mau, Hawaii's state wide palliative care and hospice organization. It is based on model legislation created by the Centers to Advance Palliative Care to establish palliative care advisory councils in each state to make recommendations and serve as a resource to evaluate actions to increase palliative care. The goal of SCR 113 is to provide the legislature with recommendations to advance palliative care specific to Hawaii and our unique and diverse communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Formerly
HOSPICE of HILO

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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 113 - RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE
Hearing: March 23, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brenda S. Ho, CEO of Hospice of Hilo now doing business under the tradename Hawai'i Care Choices. Our organization has served the palliative, hospice and bereavement needs of the east and south portions of Hawai'i County since 1983.

We are grateful for and are in strong support of the Cancer Action Network's resolution to shine a spotlight on the need for expansion of palliative care services statewide. Studies have shown that, across a range of serious illnesses (cancer, dementia, end-stage renal disease, cardiopulmonary failure), palliative care services improve patients' symptoms and the quality of end of life care, allow patients to avoid hospitalization and to remain safely and adequately cared for at home, lead to better patient and family satisfaction, and significantly reduce prolonged grief and post-traumatic stress disorder among bereaved family members.

We can attest to the power of palliative care through the example of our community-based palliative care program (Kupu Care) which continues to build capacity in large part due to State GIA support (with a current request for GIA funding of \$300,000 for 2018/19 year). In the past 18 months of service, the demand for our program has grown. Data from the second year of service, for Congestive Heart Failure and Cancer patients, showed a **79% overall reduction in ER visits, a 78% overall decrease in hospital admission rates, and a 75% overall decrease in ICU days**, when compared to experience before palliative care services. Additionally, our collaboration with East Hawaii Regional Health System to follow patients with complex care needs for 30 days from hospital discharge with the goal of reducing the 30-day readmission rate is proving successful.

As the Nation and the state of Hawai'i look at population health, healthcare reform and physician payment reform for high-cost high need individuals – we at Hawai'i Care Choices can confirm that the models and cost-savings found in palliative care are the solutions for the future.

SCR 113 goals to form a workgroup to examine the gaps in coverage for palliative care in Hawaii and to come up with a long-term plan to address these challenges is an essential step to providing more comprehensive care for the communities we serve.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to express my support for SCR 113 relating to Palliative Care.

Respectfully,
Brenda S. Ho, MS, RN
Chief Executive Officer

March 20, 2018

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

RE: SCR113, RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE

Dear Chair Baker and other members of the committee,

My name is Jeannette Koiwane and I currently serve as the Executive Director of Kōkua Mau, Hawaii’s Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. I am writing to express my **STRONG SUPPORT** for SCR113, which would form a palliative care work group.

Kōkua Mau has worked with American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS-CAN) over the last year on this resolution and we look forward to working together, along with the Department of Health, to convene and carry out the work group. Kōkua Mau is named in the resolution and we are very ready to take on these responsibilities.

We believe that Palliative Care offers tremendous opportunities for people facing serious illness and their loved ones to reduce their unnecessary suffering and find the support and care they need. Palliative care is a team approach that helps the person facing serious illness and their loved ones with a team of professionals to manage the physical, emotional, spiritual and social suffering that they may be facing. Doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains and other professionals provide an additional level of support that can be provided alongside curative treatments or be the focus of care. Hospice is a kind of palliative care that is offered to people in the last six months of life who have decided to forgo life-prolonging or curative treatments.

Palliative care has grown over the last decade in Hawaii and is now offered in most but not all of our hospitals. In-home palliative care is currently being offered through all of our hospices, primarily because of a Concurrent Care or Supportive Care benefit offered by UHA and HMSA. However these benefits are limited. We need to find ways to offer more palliative care to people in settings outside of the hospital, including long-term care, and this work group will explore how palliative care is currently working and how to expand palliative care offerings.

Kōkua Mau is a network of committed organizations and individuals from across Hawaii. (www.kokuamau.org) Over the past 18 years, Kōkua Mau has brought to the forefront meaningful, thoughtful and sensitive conversations on improving care and support for those with serious illness. We are Hawaii’s trusted resource for accurate information on advance care planning as well as hospice and palliative care.



KŌKUA MAU

“Continuous Care”

**Hawai‘i Hospice and Palliative
Care Organization**

As an organization and network, our goal is to create a community in which these thoughtful, compassionate conversations are widespread. We are fostering a movement to change social norms in Hawaii regarding conversations and decisions around serious illness and end-of-life care, and to provide all individuals and communities with greater choice and control regarding their quality of life. We do not focus on the end of life, but rather the quality of life. Palliative and Hospice Care are important parts of the continuum of care and we see the need to increase how and where that care is offered.

I urge you to support SCR113. I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,


Jeannette Kojane, MPH
Executive Director

SCR-113

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 6:39:18 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/23/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 20, 2018

House Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: HCR118, RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE

Honorable Chair Mizuno and esteemed committee members:

As a palliative medicine specialist and Vice President of the Board of Directors of Directors of Kōkua Mau, Hawaii's Hospice and Palliative Care Organization **I write in strong support of HCR118**, which would form a palliative care work group.

Kōkua Mau has worked with American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS-CAN) over the last year on this resolution and we look forward to working together, along with the Department of Health, to convene and carry out the work group. Kōkua Mau is named in the resolution and we are very ready to take on these responsibilities.

We believe that Palliative Care offers tremendous opportunities for people facing serious illness and their loved ones to reduce their unnecessary suffering and find the support and care they need. Palliative care is a team approach that helps the person facing serious illness and their loved ones with a team of professionals to manage the physical, emotional, spiritual and social suffering that they may be facing. Doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains and other professionals provide an additional level of support that can be provided alongside curative treatments or be the focus of care. Hospice is a kind of palliative care that is offered to people in the last six months of life who have decided to forgo life-prolonging or curative treatments.

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As an organization and network, our goal is to create a community in which these thoughtful, compassionate conversations are widespread. We are fostering a movement to change social norms in Hawaii regarding conversations and decisions around serious illness and end-of-life care, and to provide all individuals and communities with greater choice and control regarding their quality of life. We do not focus on the end of life, but rather the quality of life. Palliative and Hospice Care are important parts of the continuum of care and we see the need to increase how and where that care is offered.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of SCR/HCR 118 and this supportive testimony.

Respectfully,

Daniel Fischberg, MD, PhD, FAAHPM
Kailua, HI

SCR-113

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 7:43:26 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/23/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GARY SIMON	Testifying for ST. FRANCIS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM	Support	No

Comments:

March 22, 2018

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Regarding: **SCR 113**

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

I am Gary Simon, Director of Corporate Affairs and Advocacy for St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii (SFHS).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, including seven years as Executive Director of St. Francis Hospice. I am offering testimony on behalf of SFHS.

SFHS strongly supports **SCR 113**, which requests that the Hawai'i Department of Health convene a working group to examine palliative care services and develop recommendations to expand palliative care in Hawai'i.

For too long, patients diagnosed with a life-threatening illness have had to live in a binary healthcare world. They have either had to choose between curative treatment or hospice care.

However, the parameters and eligibility for coverage for these different types of care at opposite ends of the spectrum are beginning to blur. Patients now have the option to

simultaneously choose treatment and hospice care because of forward-looking health plans that cover both instead of making patients choose one path over another.

Palliative care gives patients more options and fills out the spectrum of care. Yet, palliative care still remains mysterious for many patients, and has not yet been fully embraced and valued. Palliative care is often only seen as a prelude to hospice care but the value of palliative care as a stand-alone specialty has not yet been fully explored. We have only scratched the surface to look at palliative care as a path for patients seeking recovery and wholeness.

The task force will be valuable in helping to elevate the role of palliative care in Hawai'i and increase awareness about its effectiveness in care for both patients and healthcare providers.

We strongly urge the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health to support **SCR 113**.

Sincerely,

Gary Simon

Director of Corporate Affairs and Advocacy

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