



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB722
RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE.**

REP. JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 12, 2019

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** General fund appropriation request of \$350,000.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports HB722 provided that any
3 appropriations do not displace any Executive Budget requests. The purpose of this measure is to
4 adopt recommendations from the palliative care working group, including testing the hypotheses
5 of recent local research on culturally competent approaches to staff and patient engagement.

6 Palliative care is a recent medical specialty focused on comfort care and quality of life for
7 patients, including their family, suffering from serious health conditions. Palliative care may be
8 employed while the patient is continuing active treatment through different phases of their life
9 limiting condition. All hospice care is palliative in nature, but not all palliative care is hospice.

10 In 2018, the department convened a working group pursuant to SCR142 HD1 SLH 2018 which
11 tasked the community to recommend strategies to expand palliative care in Hawaii. In
12 partnership with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and Kokua Mau, as well
13 as industry partners, the top recommendations were to:

- 14 1) Increase public and health care provider education;
15 2) Support with public funds demonstration projects in the State; and
16 3) Evaluate new and existing data sources to further establish community standards of care.

17 Mainland-based research reveals clear disparities such that “in every ethnic subgroup studied,
18 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were less likely than whites to enroll in hospice” (Ngo-

1 Metzger, et al. 2007). Local research from the University of Hawaii School of Nursing,
2 “Culturally Competent Palliative and Hospice Care Training for Ethnically Diverse Staff in
3 Long-Term Care Facilities,” (Kataoka-Yahiro, et al. 2016) suggests that culturally competent
4 approaches to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders improve patient and staff knowledge and
5 satisfaction with palliative and hospice care services.

6 This research may have real-world implications since non-enrollment or late enrollment in
7 palliative care, including but not limited to hospice, increases direct health care costs and the
8 emotional burden of patients and their families.

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

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HB-722

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 5:54:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health:

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

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of St. Francis Healthcare System.

St. Francis Healthcare System wholeheartedly supports HB 722.

Our St. Francis Palliative Care Program has demonstrated positive results in assisting patients with managing their pain and symptoms as well as assisting patients and their families with psychosocial and spiritual support. Furthermore, our Palliative Care Program has been effective in helping patients and their families with the burdensome details in their daily lives, including, but not limited to, coordinating transitions of care from hospitals and care facilities to their homes, navigating the healthcare system, advocating for patients and their families, educating caregivers, assisting with health insurance (including Medicaid), and securing transportation.

St. Francis Healthcare System commends the Legislature for developing policies and programs to expand palliative care and to enhance access to palliative care for those facing serious illness and for their loved ones, enabling these patients and their families to find the support and care they need to reduce their suffering.

We urge you to support HB 722 and to recommend its passage.

Thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

Director of Corporate Affairs and Advocacy

St. Francis Healthcare System



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 9 am, Conference Room 329
HB 722, Relating to Palliative Care

TESTIMONY

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Mizuno and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii requests amendment of HB 722.

The League has no expertise or position concerning palliative care. However, we request amendment of HB 722 so that the “advisory group” which would oversee implementation of the palliative care pilot program is subject to Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes. There is no compelling justification to totally exempt the proposed “advisory group” from the Sunshine Law.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



ONLINE SUBMITTAL
Submitted on February 9, 2019

HEARING DATE: February 12, 2019 9:00 a.m. in room 329

TO: House Committee on Health
Rep. John Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: **Strong Support for HB 722 Relating to Palliative Care**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening life, family and religious freedom in Hawaii. We support this bill that supports activities to increase the utilization of palliative care in Hawaii by establishing a culturally competent palliative care pilot program to promote palliative care, gather health care utilization data, and conduct bidding for at least two pilot programs for home or community based palliative care.

When someone we love faces the fear of a terminal diagnosis—and all the emotions and decisions that come with it—more than ever, they need to know that we believe their life is worth fighting for.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization describes palliative care as “patient and family-centered care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering. Palliative care throughout the continuum of illness involves addressing physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual needs to facilitate patient autonomy, access to information and choices.” Palliative care focuses on treating the person, as well as the disease, and helps provide support and inclusion for family members.

Palliative care improves quality of life and survival and creates care efficiencies that curb costs. Although we believe that Hawai'i leads the way in many aspects because of the hard work of groups like Queens Medical Center, Hospice Hawai'i, St. Francis Hospice, Kokua Mau, Queens Medical Center and others, there are often barriers to getting patients with serious illness access to palliative care. These include:

- Lack of knowledge and understanding about palliative care;
- Variability in access based on geographic location, physician training, and services offered;
- Inadequate workforce to meet the needs of patients and families especially in some of our local cultural groups;
- Insufficient research to guide and measure quality of care.

We strongly support activities that increase public education. The effort will ensure that comprehensive and accurate information about palliative care is available to the wider public, and that benefits the entire community. By passing this bill, Hawai'i legislators will be taking a significant step towards helping our sickest patients get access to the best care for them and their families.

Let's work together to make sure those with the most serious illnesses in our community know we're not giving up on them. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of
Joy Barua
Senior Director, Government and Community Relations & Community Benefit

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

February 12, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Re: HB722, Relating to Palliative Care

Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB722, which establishes the culturally competent palliative care pilot program to promote palliative care, gather health care utilization data, and conduct bidding for at least two pilot programs for home or community based palliative care, one of which must be located in a county with less than two hundred thousand residents. Requires reports to the legislature. Establishes an advisory group to oversee implementation of the pilot program. Appropriates funds.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB722

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i is Hawai'i's largest integrated health system that provides care and coverage for over 255,000 members. Each day, more than 4,500 dedicated employees and more than 600 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.

As an integrated health system, Kaiser Permanente recognizes the importance of palliative care and its focus on patient and family-centered care to optimize quality of life by anticipating, preventing and treating suffering. Palliative care-continuum addresses physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual needs to facilitate patient autonomy, access to information and better choices. Incorporating culturally appropriate components would therefore further improve the impact of palliative care in Hawai'i.

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

HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

Committee on Health

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura
Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Gene Ward

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2019
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony in Support of HB 722
RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE**

Dan Brinkman, East Hawaii Regional CEO of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 722** that establishes the culturally competent palliative care pilot program to provide public education on the benefits of palliative care, promote palliative care utilization, and emphasize referrals to palliative care earlier during treatment for patients. **HB 722** recognizes the importance of palliative care as a vital healthcare issue, and 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.

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 the models and cost-savings found in palliative care are the solutions for the future.

HB 722 goals are an essential step to providing more comprehensive care for the communities we serve, and I am in complete support of this initiative.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to express my support for **HB 722** relating to Palliative Care.

February 10, 2019

Testimony in Support of HB722

Dear Representative Mizuno and other members of the committee,

With this testimony for HB722, I would like to express my strong support for this bill to strengthen and expand Palliative Care in Hawaii. This bill from recommendations from the Palliative Care Task Force, created last year by resolution, and provides next steps in increasing palliative care awareness and usage in Hawaii.

I currently serve as Executive Director of Kōkua Mau, which is the Hospice and Palliative Care Organization for Hawaii. As a network of organizations and individuals around the state, we are committed to increasing palliative care as it is seen as best practice for caring well for people with serious illness, including those as the end of life. This support includes hospice care, which is a type of palliative care for those at the very end of life. Kōkua Mau is committed to creating a continuum of care for those with serious illness, including their loved ones and those who care for them, and is very encouraged by the increase interest in the opportunities that palliative care offers.

We support the main points of the bill, which include:

1. Education for the public and professionals
2. Pilot studies to show the efficacy of palliative care
3. Establish data points to best determine standards of care and determine unmet need

I am sorry I am not able to appear in person today. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Best wishes,



Jeannette G. Koijane, MPH
Executive Director
Kōkua Mau
jkoiijane@kokuamau.org

Formerly
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House Committee on Health

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB722
RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE**
Hearing: February 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 722** that establishes the culturally competent palliative care pilot program to provide public education on the benefits of palliative care, promote palliative care utilization, and emphasize referrals to palliative care earlier during treatment for patients. **HB 722** recognizes the importance of palliative care as a vital healthcare issue, and 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.

With 35 years serving the palliative, hospice, and bereavement needs of East Hawai'i, we can attest to the power of palliative care through the example of our community-based palliative care program started in 2016. **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.**

HB 722 goals are an essential step to providing more comprehensive care for the communities we serve, and we are in complete support of this initiative.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to express my support for **HB 722** relating to Palliative Care.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda S. Ho, MS, RN
Chief Executive Officer

Committee on Health

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura Rep. James Kunane
 Tokioka
Rep. Joy A. San Rep. Gene Ward
Buenaventura

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2019
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 329
 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB 722
RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE

(Name/Title) Ka'iu Kimura, Hawai'i Island Community Member

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 722** that establishes the culturally competent palliative care pilot program to provide public education on the benefits of palliative care, promote palliative care utilization, and emphasize referrals to palliative care earlier during treatment for patients. **HB 722** recognizes the importance of palliative care as a vital healthcare issue, and 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.

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 the models and cost-savings found in palliative care are the solutions for the future.

HB 722 goals are an essential step to providing more comprehensive care for the communities we serve, and I am in complete support of this initiative.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to express my support for **HB 722** relating to Palliative Care.



**American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network**
2370 Nuʻuanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96817
808.432.9149
www.acscan.org

House Committee on Health
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HB 722 – RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 722, which appropriates funds for palliative care education and establish a culturally competent palliative care pilot program. This bill is similar to HB 1447.

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.

HB 722 is based on research of cultural competency in palliative care conducted by the University of Hawaii in 2016. As a first step to increasing palliative care in Hawaii, people facing chronic diseases and life-threatening conditions need to know what palliative care is and how it can increase their quality of life as they go through recovery or face an end-of-life situation.

In 2018, the Legislature adopted SCR 142, HD1, which created the palliative care working group in partnership with the Department of Health, Kokua Mau, and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. HB 722 is a continuation of the working group and will allow for further discussions by increasing public awareness, gathering more information, and creating a pilot program to focus on cultural competency. We are committed to continue working with the palliative care community on this important issue for cancer patients and others facing serious illnesses.

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

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House Committee on Health

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB722
RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE**
Hearing: February 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 722** that establishes the culturally competent palliative care pilot program to provide public education on the benefits of palliative care, promote palliative care utilization, and emphasize referrals to palliative care earlier during treatment for patients. **HB 722** recognizes the importance of palliative care as a vital healthcare issue, and 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.

With 35 years serving the palliative, hospice, and bereavement needs of East Hawai'i, we can attest to the power of palliative care through the example of our community-based palliative care program started in 2016. **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.**

HB 722 goals are an essential step to providing more comprehensive care for the communities we serve, and we are in complete support of this initiative.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to express my support for **HB 722** relating to Palliative Care.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda S. Ho, MS, RN
Chief Executive Officer

Committee on Health

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura Rep. James Kunane
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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2019
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 329
 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB 722
RELATING TO PALLIATIVE CARE

(Name/Title) Karen Teshima

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 722** that establishes the culturally competent palliative care pilot program to provide public education on the benefits of palliative care, promote palliative care utilization, and emphasize referrals to palliative care earlier during treatment for patients. **HB 722** recognizes the importance of palliative care as a vital healthcare issue, and 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.

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 the models and cost-savings found in palliative care are the solutions for the future.

HB 722 goals are an essential step to providing more comprehensive care for the communities we serve, and I am in complete support of this initiative.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to express my support for **HB 722** relating to Palliative Care.

HB-722

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 12:53:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglass Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-722

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 9:43:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-722

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 8:29:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chenit Ong-Flahertu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Legislators

I have been a nurse for more than 30 years, and I have worked across different settings from the emergency room to home care. From my experience, and having taught in academia upon receiving my doctorate, I have been able to research and learn about the importance of palliative care in the community. Many of our patients who visit the ER often do not know how to manage their disease symptoms adequately. Doctors' visits are often too short and overwhelming. Studies upon studies have shown that given time, attention, and appropriate education, people do better in understanding their diseases. Secondary prevention can lower ER utilization and hospitalizations to the cost savings of about \$4500 per patient per year. Multiply that by the many patients struggling in our community, and it is not hard to see how investing in community palliative care management can save our community, state and country billions in healthcare dollars.

HB722 is a great bill that will move us in the right direction. Please support the bill for the sake of our patients, families, community, and state.

Thank you for your attention.

Chenit Ong-Flaherty, RN, DNP, PHNA-BC, CNL

294 Hoomakoa Place, Hilo, HI 96720



February 12, 2019 at 9:00 am
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Director of Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 722, Relating to Palliative Care

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 healthcare 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure, which would provide public education on palliative care, encourage earlier adoption of palliative care in a patient's course of treatment, and establish at least two culturally competent palliative care pilot programs. Palliative care provides a comprehensive treatment option for individuals battling serious illness to help alleviate physical and emotional pain that greatly improve these patients' quality of life.

This legislation will help to continue important discussions and actions to promote palliative care and help patients access this important type of care. We are grateful to the legislature for focusing on this important piece of the care continuum and hope your committee will view this legislation favorably.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.



To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members, Committee Health

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

Date: February 11, 2019

Hrg: House Committee on Health Hearing; Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Room
329

Re: **Support for H.B. 722, Relating to Palliative Care**

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, 66 health care centers and labs, and more than 1,600 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 722, Relating to Palliative Care, which establishes a culturally competent palliative care pilot program. Palliative care is a proven approach that improves the quality of life of our patients and their families facing challenges associated with life-threatening illness. Through prevention and relief of suffering, palliative care address and manages the physical symptoms, as well as the emotional and spiritual hardship our patients face due to their serious, chronic, and/or terminal conditions.

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

LATE

HB-722

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:59:33 PM
Testimony for HLT on 2/12/2019 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments: