

SCR101 / SR73

Measure Title:	REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF REPURPOSING LEAHI HOSPITAL AND MALUHIA HOSPITAL AS CENTERS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR NON-FORENSIC PATIENTS.
Report Title:	Mental Health; Substance Abuse; Residential Treatment; Public Hospitals
Description:	
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	BAKER, ENGLISH, INOUYE, L. THIELEN, Kanuha, J.Keohokalole, Kidani, Kim, Moriwaki, Nishihara, Ruderman



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR101/SR73
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO
STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF
REPURPOSING LEAHI HOSPITAL AND MALUHIA HOSPITAL AS
CENTERS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
TREATMENT SERVICES FOR NON-FORENSIC PATIENTS**

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

Hearing Date and Time: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Room: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this resolution. We
3 recognize that we are statutorily responsible for the development and implementation of a
4 statewide mental health system in partnership with government and community organizations
5 per §334-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which states:

6 **§334-2 Mental health system.** The department of health shall foster and coordinate a
7 comprehensive mental health system utilizing public and private resources to reduce the
8 incidence of mental or emotional disorders and substance abuse, to treat and
9 rehabilitate the victims in the least restrictive and most therapeutic environment possible,
10 and to provide treatment and care for homeless individuals with serious and persistent
11 mental health challenges to enable them to reside in a permanent dwelling unit or
12 homeless facility, as defined in section 346-361. The department shall administer such
13 programs, services, and facilities as may be provided by the State to promote, protect,
14 preserve, care for, and improve the mental health of the people.

15 Further, the DOH understands that the overlapping issues of mental illness, substance
16 abuse, and homelessness present complex problems for the State for which there are no simple
17 solutions.

18 The need to better coordinate resources both internally and externally to provide for a
19 more comprehensive, accessible and integrated system of care is evident in the many

1 measures currently considered by the legislature in addition to SCR0101/SR73 before you
2 today. These include SB567 SD2 HD1, SB1051 SD1 HD1, SB1124 SD2 HD1, SB1494 SD2,
3 HB1221 HD2, and others. Also evident in these measures is the reality that no one entity can
4 successfully tackle and mitigate these issues alone as they cross multiple sectors of state and
5 county government and the private sector. Lastly, these measures illustrate the need to
6 proactively and decisively move from the current system, structured largely as various silos, to a
7 more integrated system.

8 The DOH recognizes a critical need to coordinate a comprehensive continuum of care
9 that includes community-based mental health and substance use treatment services as part of
10 that continuum. The DOH acknowledges a pressing need for community-based alternatives for
11 individuals who do not need the level of care provided at Hawaii State Hospital (HSH).

12 The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) provides safety net services and Leahi
13 Hospital and Maluhia Hospital may be appropriate sites to implement a vital component of
14 overall program capacity for a mental health and substance use treatment continuum. The
15 participation of stakeholders listed as members of the proposed task force is critical in
16 establishing a consensus for system improvement and for better services and supports for
17 individuals in need.

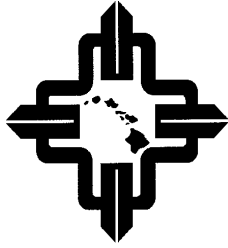
18 The DOH looks forward to continued collaboration with legislators, partner agencies, and
19 community stakeholders to take clear and decisive action toward implementing a more
20 coordinated continuum of care that includes community-based alternatives to Hawaii State
21 Hospital. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

22 **Offered Amendments:** We respectfully request the following addition to the task force
23 membership:

24 (4) The Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Oahu
25 Region; ~~and~~

26 (5) A representative from the mental health and substance abuse provider community;
27 and

28 (6) The Director of Human Services



**OAHU REGION
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair**

March 20, 2019
Conference Room 229
Hawaii State Capitol

Derek Akiyoshi
Oahu Region Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation
Re: Testimony in Support of SCR 101/SR 73

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Chang, and Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Health.

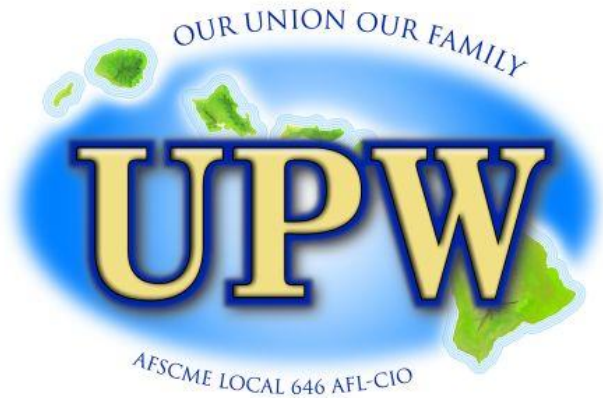
The current focus of the Oahu Regional Health System Board of Directors (hereinafter, “OR Board”) is to maximize the use of our facilities for the greatest public benefit and to develop initiatives to be more fiscally responsible and sustainable. It is toward the former focus that the OR Board supports SCR 101 and SR 73, which requests that the Department of Health convene a task force to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of repurposing Leahi Hospital and Maluhia as centers for community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment services for non-forensic patients.

While we are proud of the important public services we already provide – including in-patient long-term care, adult day health (2 of only 5 programs on Oahu), the only certified TB (tuberculosis) unit in Hawaii, and a geriatric outpatient clinic – we are always committed to finding ways to do more. Accordingly, we fully support a collaborative effort with the Department of Health and other agencies (both public and private) to address the vital need for community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment on Oahu, especially if the Oahu Region’s facilities are ultimately determined to be appropriate locations for the provision of such services.

In an abundance of caution, we would like to address one concern with the titles of the instant Resolutions. Specifically, the titles request recommendations on the feasibility of “repurposing” Leahi Hospital and Maluhia. To the extent that the term “repurposing” is meant to be interpreted as adding an *additional* purpose to these facilities, the Oahu Region has no objections. If the term “repurposing” is intended to mean *replacement* of the Oahu Region’s existing services with only mental health and substance abuse treatment, however, we must express our concern that countless members of Oahu’s vulnerable and financially challenged community (including their

family members) would suffer extreme hardship if Leahi Hospital and Maluhia cease to provide safety-net long-term care and adult day health services.

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



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE

The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2019

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Time of Hearing: 10:00 a.m.

Place of Hearing: Conference Room 229

**COMMENTS ON SCR101/SR73 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE
FEASIBILITY OF REPURPOSING LEAHI HOSPITAL AND MALUHIA HOSPITAL AS
CENTERS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTHYH AND SUBSTANCE
ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR NON-FORENCISIC PATIENTS**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and four counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members in the private sector.

The UPW strongly supports the continued utilization of Maluhia and Leahi Hospital as safety net facilities especially for our needy elderly patients. The UPW also understands that there is need for more bed space for non-forensic patients in Hawaii. Therefore, a repurposing of the vacant beds in each hospital may possibly have some logic provided however, that our needy elderly that require these hospital services and facilities are provided to them on a

priority basis. It is requested that within any study for repurposing both hospitals, that the study describe any impact on the current employees of both hospitals with respect to their employment, personal safety, work environment, re-training or additional training, and that the study consider the impact of current patients at both hospitals, to meet any new potential purposes of the hospitals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.