



February 24, 2021 at 9:30 am
Via Videoconference

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang

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

Re: **Submitting Comments**
SB 1150 SD 1, Relating to Skilled Nursing Facility Licensing

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 provide **comments** on this bill, which would allow the Department of Health to accept accreditation or certification from a qualified organization for the purposes of licensing a skilled nursing facility in the state. We appreciate the intent of the bill and appreciate that the use of an outside accreditation or certification program remains voluntary, rather than compulsory.

Our skilled nursing facilities are constantly reviewing federal guidance, regulations, and best practices and strive to provide the highest quality of care to patients, even during this difficult time. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.