

POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



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CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I

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RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE TC-BT

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
and Members
Committee on Health and Human Services
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2186, Relating to Health Care Workers

I am Thomas Chang, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.


The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2186, Relating to Health Care Workers.


This bill appropriately provides an additional mechanism to protect health care workers against assaults and being threatened while performing their official job duties. Health care workers perform vital tasks to ensure our community members are healthy and safe. Signing these measures into law will aid in protecting healthcare workers from harm.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 2186, Relating to Health Care Workers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police


Thomas Chang, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division



**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Monday, February 05, 2024
Conference Room 225 and via Videoconference
By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT on S.B. 2186

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee, thank you for hearing this measure which heightens the penalties for the assault and terroristic threatening of health care workers. Clarifies the definition of "terroristic threatening" to include the methods of contact.

In 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that violent events accounted for 12.2% of all injuries that nurses experienced, and that the incidence rate (12.7 per 10,000 FTEs) was three times greater than that of violent events for all occupations (3.8/10,000 workers). The report concluded "Additional measures to protect RNs from occupational hazards could benefit both patients and the healthcare system as a whole."¹

Unfortunately, the risk for workplace violence has exacerbated. According to research findings from Press Ganey, in the U.S., two nurses are assaulted every hour.² The American Nurses Association elaborates that one in four nurses are assaulted, yet only 20-60% of incidents are reported, and that 13% of missed workdays are due to workplace violence.³

In Hawai'i, according to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing 2023 Nursing Workforce Supply report findings, 64% of all nurses reported some type of physical or verbal violence by a patient or visitor, and 32% percent of all nurses reported experiencing violence more than once a month (14% at least monthly, 13% at least weekly, and 5% at least daily).⁴

The national Nurse Staffing Think Tank, a thinktank comprised of thought leaders from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, American Nurses Association, American

¹ Michelle A. Dressner and Samuel P. Kissinger, "Occupational injuries and illnesses among registered nurses," Monthly Labor Review, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 2018, <https://doi.org/10.21916/mlr.2018.27>

² PressGaney. (2022) On average, two nurses are assaulted every hour, new Press Ganey analysis finds. <https://www.pressganey.com/news/on-average-two-nurses-are-assaulted-every-hour-new-press-ganey-analysis-finds/>

³ American Nurses Association. (2023). Workplace Violence/ #EndNurseAbuse. <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/work-environment/end-nurse-abuse/>

⁴ Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (2023). 2023 Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply Statewide Data Tables by License . https://www.hawaiiicenterfornursing.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/State-Data-Tables-v.Final_.pdf

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.

Organization for Nursing Leadership, Healthcare Financial Management Association, and Institute for Healthcare Improvement made “Healthy Work Environment” a top priority. The Think Tank recommended that “Elevat[ing] clinician psychological and physical safety to equal importance with patient safety through federal regulation.” Action steps included in this recommendation include “Implement processes to track and prevent workplace violence within health systems” and “Advocate for implementation of federal legislation to protect health care professionals.”⁵

In 2018, the Hawai‘i Legislature, in its great wisdom, expanded protections for health care workers including nurses, nurse aides, and other members of the healthcare team through Act 147, SLH 2018. By increasing the penalty for assaulting a healthcare worker, and by expanding the protections to all employees and contractors of a healthcare facility, the state asserts its commitment to the healthcare worker community.

In addition, a systematic review⁶ of efforts to reduce violence against nursing in the workplace found that there are a number of worksite interventions that can further reduce the incidence of violence. These include environmental protections (panic buttons, security locks), developing standardized reporting systems for workplace violence, administrative process improvements (policies for violence prevention, safety procedures), and behavior training (basic education, structured education programs and simulation activities to improve staff capacity to respond to dangerous situations) all resulted in improved workplace environments, both alone and as multi-component interventions. The Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing has worked with our nursing stakeholders which has already identified Workplace Safety as a priority.

The Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing will continue to develop locally implementable strategies in addition to the commendable effort by the Legislature to improve wellbeing of healthcare workers, including nurses, while at work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

⁵ Nurse Staffing Think Tank. (2022). Priority Topics and Recommendations.

<https://www.nursingworld.org/~49940b/globalassets/practiceandpolicy/nurse-staffing/nurse-staffing-think-tank-recommendation.pdf>

⁶ Somani, R., Muntaner, C., Hillan, E., Velonis, A. J., & Smith, P. (2021). A Systematic Review: Effectiveness of Interventions to De-escalate Workplace Violence against Nurses in Healthcare Settings. *Safety and Health at Work*, 12(3), 289–295. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shaw.2021.04.004>

The mission of the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: February 5, 2024

Re: Support for SB2186 – Relating to Health Care Workers

The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit 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, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff 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 provide testimony in support of SB2186, which establishes heightened penalties for the assault and terroristic threatening of health care workers. National data has shown that those practicing in healthcare settings are experiencing growing acts of violence; according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 20,050 workers in private industry experienced trauma from nonfatal workplace violence.

As we are experiencing a major workforce shortage across all sectors in healthcare, more needs to be done to assure our healthcare workforce that their safety is prioritized. Queen's has taken recent steps to expand our security measures by installing metal detectors at main entry points to facilities and also instituting the new Strongline emergency system. This later system provides a mechanism to enable Queen's staff to request security wherever a threatening experience is taking place on our campus. The expanded provisions within SB2186 contribute to the suite of deterrents aimed at keeping our healthcare ohana safer.

We concur with the suggested amendments offered by the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i and thank you for allowing Queen's to provide testimony in support of SB2186.

The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Monday, February 5, 2024, 1:55 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on SB2186 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW") is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. UPW also represents 1,500 members who are healthcare employees in the private sector.

UPW supports SB2186, which establishes heightened penalties for the assault and terroristic threatening of healthcare workers and clarifies the definition of "terroristic threatening" to include the methods of contact.

We strongly believe that healthcare workers, whether they are employed at the Hawaii State Hospital or Maui Memorial Medical Center, should be afforded greater protections against assault and the threat of violence. This bill provides healthcare workers, from certified nursing assistants to custodians, some assurances that they can perform their duties without fear of violence in the workplace.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kalani Werner', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director

HEADQUARTERS

1426 North School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914
Phone 808.847.2631

HAWAII

362 East Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336
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Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only



Monday, February 5, 2024 at 1:55 pm
Conference Room 225

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

From: Hilton R. Raethel
President and CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB 2186, Relating to Health Care Workers

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 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** this measure, which would classify the bodily injury of a healthcare worker engaged in the performance of duty at a healthcare facility as an offense in the first degree. Further, this measure would classify terroristic threatening of a healthcare worker engaged in the performance of duty at a healthcare facility as a Class A felony.

We were extremely grateful to the legislature when it expanded protections for healthcare workers in Act 147, SLH 2018. One recent study found that 44% of nurses reporting being subjected to physical violence, and 68% reporting verbal abuse in a recent study.¹ A widening of the applicability of the law to all types of workers engaged in their duties is a welcomed change. Our members have followed best practices in terms of security, trainings, and educational opportunities to reduce violence against our workers. However—and unfortunately—these events continue to happen, and we believe any effort to strengthen penalties against offenders will be beneficial.

We would make two suggested amendments to include protections for workers who enter into a patient's home, and are victimized while engaged in their duties but who do not work in a facility setting.

¹ <https://www.aha.org/lettercomment/2024-01-24-aha-voices-support-safety-violence-healthcare-employees-save-act-hr-2584>

The first amendment would be to the newly-designated subsection (c) on page 1, lines 16-17, to read:

“(c) Bodily injury to a health care worker who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility or providing home health services as defined in section 431:10H-210 in a patient’s home.”

This change would also allow the striking of re-designated subsection (j) on page 6.

The second amendment would be to the newly-designated subsection (g) on page 9, lines 20-21, to read:

“(g) Against a health care worker who is engaged in the performance of duty at a health care facility or providing home health services as defined in section 431:10H-210 in a patient’s home.”

Thank you for hearing this important measure and considering our amendments.



**WAIANAЕ COAST
COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER**

LATE

RE: In Support of Senate Bill 2186

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the West Oahu community through accessible and affordable medical and traditional healing services, including vital telehealth services and online social support, crucial for our community's wellbeing. Celebrating over 50 years of service, WCCHC remains committed to providing holistic healthcare and promoting the health of our local community and environment. We are in strong support of SB 2186.

SB 2186 is a pivotal measure aimed at fortifying the protections for health care workers across our state. By expanding the definition of "Health Care Worker" and the existing heightened penalties for assaults and strengthening penalties for terroristic threats, this bill directly aligns with our mission to ensure a safe and secure environment for our dedicated employees and the communities we serve.

The escalation of violence and threats against health care workers is a growing concern both state wide and nationally. It jeopardizes not only the safety of these individuals but also the overall well-being of our patients. SB 2186's approach to expanding penalties for assaults on health care workers and clarifying the application of terroristic threatening laws, including threats made over the phone, is a step in the right direction in addressing this pressing issue. While we recognize this legislation is not perfect, we would like to see the discussion continue as stakeholders and legislators look for ways to protect the people who do the essential work of taking care of our people when they are sick and injured.

We extend our gratitude to Senator Aquino for introducing this measure and to the members of this committee for considering its merits. By supporting SB 2186, we affirm our collective commitment to the safety and dignity of all health care workers, ensuring they can continue their vital work in a supportive environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this critical legislation.

Mahalo,

Leinaala Kanana
Chief, Community Health Services
LKanana@wcchc.com

Monday, February 5, 2024 at 1:55 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **SB 2186 – Testimony In Support
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS.**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs for Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in support of SB 2186 which establishes heightened penalties for the assault and terroristic threatening of health care workers and clarifies the definition of "terroristic threatening" to include the methods of contact. We concur with the amendments proposed by the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i in its testimony.

All health care and human services professionals today face a significant increase in the number of job related violent incidents while on duty compared to other workers. Statistics show that there has been an increase in the number of nurses that have experienced assaults, and this is of great concern. Additionally, at our hospitals, our staff has been experiencing an increase in encounters with violent patients. Classifying assault against a health care worker as a Class A felony as well as the broad language as to the types of workers who may be considered victims of assault as well as the setting where such conduct occurs ensures greater protection to our health care and human services staff.

Passage of this bill will help to deter assaults against health care workers and provide a safer environment for all medical service workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2186

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 7:39:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2024 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rueda Ramos	Testifying for Big Island Adult Foster Home Operators	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2186 as one of the thousands of adult foster care home operators/caregivers dealing/dealt with manipulative and abusive clients/patients. Considering their vulnerability status, such action from an abusive client/patient should not be tolerated and be taken into account seriously with a preventive intervention with the following: 1) make incident report to HPD, 2) send client/patient to the hospital for medical evaluation, 3) care giver should have the right to discharge abusive client/patient from care without having the liability of "abandonment". Mahalo!



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Monday, February 5, 2024; 1:55 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2186 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS THE INTENT** of Senate Bill No. 2186, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Make a conviction for assaulting a health care worker a class A felony;
- (2) Make a conviction for terroristic threatening of a health care worker a class A felony; and
- (3) Define the term “health care worker” to include all employees and contractors of a health care facility;

As employers, FQHCs have an obligation to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of their employees, contractors, volunteers, patients, and patients' friends and family who accompany or visit patients at FQHC facilities. To the extent that this measure serves as a deterrent to violence perpetrated against health care workers, HPCA wholeheartedly supports this effort.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2186
Monday, February 5, 2024; 1:55 p.m.
Page 2

Yet, it should also be noted that when violence is committed against a health care professional, especially when it occurs at a health care facility, a crime is committed not only against the individual, but against all of society. When persons go to a health care professional, it is when that person is most vulnerable -- he or she is sick, or injured, or stressed from concern over a loved one. These places have long been held as sanctuary. During war, hospitals were marked on their rooftops with red crosses so that they would not be bombed.

Violence committed against a health care professional or at a health care facility causes sick or injured persons to hesitate before seeking help, which might exacerbate their condition. It also dissuades persons from entering the field of health care. At a time when Hawaii is facing unprecedented shortages in physicians, nurses, specialists, and other health care professionals, especially in rural areas, incidents of violence against health care professionals or at health care facilities may likely cause youths to consider other fields for future employment.

Be that as it may, while we support efforts to heighten penalties for the assault and terroristic threatening of health care workers, we defer to your wisdom on the appropriate punishments for these crimes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



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www.hgea.org

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Health and Human Services

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 5, 2024

S.B. 2186 — RELATING TO RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2186, which establishes heightened penalties for the assault and terroristic threatening of health care workers.

We firmly believe that violence against health care workers should be added to the offenses of assault in the first degree. Passage of this legislation will send a message that if a patient or family member seriously assaults a nurse or other health care worker, that person can be prosecuted and imprisoned. **The World Health Organization noted that up to 38% of health workers suffer physical violence at some point in their career.** Health care workers have significantly higher rates of on-the-job nonfatal assaults compared to other job occupations. Nurses are often the primary targets of nonfatal assaults and psychiatric nurses have the highest rate of assault. Health care providers do not deserve to be subjected to violence while caring for patients and this bill should offer some protection. We need to protect the individuals that care for our most vulnerable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 2186.

Respectfully submitted,

Kauanui Sabas
Legislative Specialist



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Telephone: (808) 597-1441
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The Thirty-Second Legislature, Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Health and Human Services

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

February 5, 2024

TESTIMONY ON SB 2186 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a federation of 74 affiliate labor organizations who represent over 68,000 union members within the State of Hawaii. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for workers and their families before the state legislature and other branches of state and county government.

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO **strongly supports** SB 2186 to establish heightened penalties for the assault and terroristic threatening of health care workers. Protecting health care workers is vital, given their critical role in our healthcare system.

Our affiliates represent health care workers in various capacities and this bill allows for comprehensive protection for all in the health care sector. The clarification of "terroristic threatening" to include various methods of contact is also crucial. Health care workers face high-stress situations and must be safeguarded while performing their duties.

We urge the committee to advance this bill to protect health care workers across the state of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Randy Perreira
Randy Perreira
President

SB-2186

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 6:43:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2024 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sherill andres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2186

SB-2186

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 8:40:03 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2024 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
rufelia s tomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I supprot this Bill.

I believe that Health care workers should all be protected under the law. All caregivers who provide 24 hour care to those who are frail, elderly, disabled, mentally challenged & other individuals that needs medical care are doing they job professionally and without discrimination.

SB-2186

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:42:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2024 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Jadulang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting SB 2186

SB-2186

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:12:59 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2024 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning Senator San Joy Buenaventura and other committees , I am in support for this SB2186 for the sake of all the Health Care Workers.And I am one of them. Caregivers have been dealing problems with abusive clients in our care homes which helps are seldom seen. Hoping with this SB2186 will pass and will be signed into a law , caregivers will be more comfortable in serving the needy citizens of our community. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

LATE

SB-2186

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:56:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2024 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2186 to protect our health care workers.

Mahalo,

Tamara Paltin

LATE

SB-2186

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:52:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/5/2024 1:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ludivina Eder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Cincern:

Relating to SB 2186, this is Ludivina Eder Adult Foster Home. I am supporting this bill created by Sen San Joy, in the sense that we should respect privacy and time for each individual. health workers are working so hard 24/7, time is so precious to us. When there is suggestions it supposed to be said in a nice way with respect and it doesn't need to be said in an arrogant manner. There is always a solution to a problem and concern and we can do it together in a tactful way. When it's done brutally it caused fear and anxiety, clients are affected as well. The caregiver can't concentrate to do certain task.



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

LATE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice-Chair

February 5, 2024

1:55 PM

Hawaii State Capitol

Room 225 & Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

SB 2186 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Establishes heightened penalties for the assault and terroristic threatening of health care workers. Clarifies the definition of "terroristic threatening" to include the methods of contact.

Edward N. Chu

President & Chief Executive Officer

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **strong support of SB 2186, Relating to Health Care Workers** which would classify the bodily injury of a healthcare worker engaged in the performance of duty at a healthcare facility as an offense in the first degree. Further, this measure would classify terroristic threatening of a healthcare worker engaged in the performance of duty at a healthcare facility as a Class A felony.

HHSC is deeply committed to ensuring workplace safety in all of its facilities. We do our best to support and protect our nurses and staff from abuse. Incidents of assault and violence against our HHSC employees are taken very seriously. These incidents have an impact on our employees' health, morale, and well-being. Passage of SB 2186 would strengthen the existing law to ensure more legal protections for Hawaii's valued healthcare workforce.

HHSC is also in support of the recommended amendments by HAH.

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