

SCR-34

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 5:49:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	In Person

Comments:

We are in strong support. I first became aware of this issue from one of the members of my Board of Directors who has had multiple problems over the years dealing with her daughter who has a mental illness. She has had behavioral issues and at times has severely decompensated. On a specific occasion some years ago her doctor thought to check her thyroid function and remarkably found that when her thyroid medication was adjusted her behavior dramatically improved. It turned out that that had a lot to do with the root causes of her issues and that the psychotropic medication she had been prescribed was not only not the solution, but also part of the problem.

For that reason she and I have been on a bit of a mission to let people know and to encourage all prescribing medical professionals to conduct an initial simple blood test for thyroid function to either rule that in or rule that out as a potential cause or contributing factor before prescribing a psychotropic medication. My hope with this Resolution is that we can educate the public and more specifically encourage the medical profession to incorporate thyroid testing into their protocols prior to prescribing psychotropic medications.

We would be extremely grateful if you would support this Resolution.

SCR-34

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 6:39:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pauline Arellano	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

DEAR SIRs, I SUPPORT SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34. I BELONG TO MANY ORGANIZATIONS: HDRC: I AM A BOARD MEMBER, I AM THE CHAIR OF THE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS (PAIMI), I AM A PAST MEMBER OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE AT THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL, I DO NOT SPEAK FOR ANY OF THESE FINE INSTITUTIONS, MY THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ARE MY OWN. HYPER AND HYPO THYROIDISM MIMICS EXACTLY THE SYMPTOMS AND BEHAVIORS OF BI POLAR ILLNESS. GOOD NEWS IS IT HAS BEEN 16 YEARS SINCE OUR LAST PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATION. PRIOR TO THIS TIME IT HAD BEEN ONCE A YEAR SOMETIMES TWICE. WE HAD HER ADMITTED TO KAHI FOR VIOLENT BEHAVIOR. THEY ISOLATED HER AND PUT HER IN 4 POINT RESTRAINTS FEW THINGS ARE MORE HORRIBLE THAN TO SEE YOUR LOVED ONE RESTRAINED LIKE A WILD ANIMAL. THEY COULDN'T BRING HER DOWN GAVE HER ENOUGH MEDS TO PUT A HORSE TO SLEEP, FINALLY ZOMBIE. 6 MONTHS LATER CASTLE, NEW DR. NEW MEDS LITHIUM/PROZAC 8 DAYS LATER SHE'S A VEGETABLE, NO MOVEMENT AT ALL, FOR 8 MONTHS! DR. DROPPED US AS HIS PATIENT NO PSYCHIATRIST ON THIS ISLAND WOULD TAKE US AS A PATIENT. WE ENDED UP IN THE STATE SYSTEM, WAHIAWA CLINIC. DR. WALKED UP TO HER TOUCHED HER FACE AND HAIR AND SAID I DON'T AGREE WITH HER DIAGNOSIS SHE HAS A THYROID CONDITION. MONTHS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND WEANING HER OFF OF LITHIUM WHICH WHILE GOOD FOR SOME PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS IS THE WORST MEDICINE FOR THYROID CONDITION. WITH THE NEW DIAGNOSIS AND CHANGE OF MEDS WE WERE ABLE TO GET HER OUT OF THIS VEGETATIVE STATE SHE CAN NOW WALK, TALK, FEED, AND DRESS HERSELF. RECENTLY ODD BEHAVIOR THYROID SPIKED, MEDICINE ADJUSTED 10 HOURS LATER NORMAL. I AM ASKING THE LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE HCR 144 AND SCR 34 REGARDING THYROID TESTING BEFORE PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICINES ARE ADMINISTERED. CLINICAL LABS TESTING \$58.00. THANK YOU, I AM A MAMMA ON A MISSION PAULINE ARELLANO

SCR-34

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 5:11:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion Poirier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

SUPPORT

My name is Marion Poirier, and I am a registered nurse with a graduate degree in healthcare administration. Now retired, I am a Board member of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center and am on the Advocacy Committee of the Hawaii-American Nurses Assn. My career has largely been in mental health. I was the executive director of NAMI Hawaii for over a decade.

This testimony is in support of this measure because a simple blood test can determine whether thyroid disease is involved in a presentation of mental illness. The task force cited seems like an excellent way to explore the topic.

I believe it would be beneficial to add nursing to the mix. Our APRN's prescribe medications, and nursing encounters with patients provide added information as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to SUPPORT this measure.

LATE

SCR-34

Submitted on: 3/22/2024 5:27:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Pat Waterhouse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Committee Members,

I strongly support this measure. A friend, her daughter and family had to endure 16 years of turmoil (hell she would say) because her daughter was misdiagnosed with a mental illness. When she was finally diagnosed correctly as a thyroid problem my friend's life, her daughter's life and her family's life improved from night to day.

Thank you for seriously considering this resolution.

Mary Pat Waterhouse