

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 326

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1421  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.B. No. 1421 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL RECORDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Repeal the requirement for the Department of Health to approve a provider's arrangement for the retention and preservation of patients' medical records prior to ceasing operations; and
- (2) Clarify that retention and preservation of medical records must be consistent with federal and state regulations.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health and The Queen's Health System.

Your Committee finds that health care providers and health care systems have internal policies and procedures, external accreditation requirements, and regulations from federal agencies such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that ensure the retention and preservation of medical records. Your Committee further finds that the Department of Health's role in approving plans for the disposition of patients' medical records when a

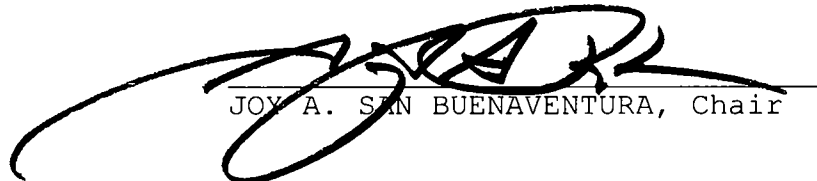


health care provider ceases operations is no longer necessary. This measure removes a redundant approval requirement that allows greater flexibility and efficiency when a provider intends to close practice.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting language to clarify that a provider's immediate arrangements for the retention and preservation of a patient's medical records shall include returning the medical records to the patient at the patient's last known address.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1421, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1421, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health and Human  
Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



