



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

April 4, 2013 at 2:17 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Supporting SB 666 SD 2 HD 1: Relating to Health

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, a majority of home health agencies and hospices, as well as long term care facilities and other health care organizations. Our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 666 SD 2 HD 1, which creates a task force to determine the feasibility of establishing an emergency services patient advocate program.

The current version of the bill is preferable to earlier versions, which would have created the program despite serious concerns that were expressed. For example, the program has the potential to adversely affect patient care. In calling for a study, the current version of the bill takes a responsible approach to addressing this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 666 SD 2 HD 1.



Community Alliance for Mental Health

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To: The Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Finance
Re: SB 666 SD 2, HD 1

To: The Honorable Senator Ige and the members of their committees.

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help strongly supports SB 666 SD 2, HD 1. Disregarding the bill number we think that this is a great idea and fitting for its time. I hope that we are proving every day that individual advocacy for those in need works.

There is no more trying time than when an individual is stressed and suffering in crisis in the waiting room of a hospital or clinic. Whether it is about oneself or a loved one it is hard to worry rationally about simple tasks when life and death come to the fore. Therefore there could be nothing of greater service than someone who would step up, seemingly out of the blue, to help you plan and take care of those necessities which at that moment seem to you of little to no import.

We applaud this idea.

Mahalo,
Robert Scott Wall
Vice-President