



St. Francis

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OF HAWAII
A Legacy of Caring for Hawaii's People

Email To: Judiciary Committee ~ JUDtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
For House Committee on Judiciary Hearing, HB 423, HD 1
Friday, February 13, 2009, 2:20 p.m., Conference Room 325

February 12, 2009

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Testifying: Myron L. Tong, Administrator, St. Francis Healthcare Foundation

St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii strongly supports HB 423, HD 1 with a religious exemption is included.

The bill that is being voted on today, HB423, HD1 is proposing that all health care organizations in Hawaii be required to offer emergency contraceptive in their emergency room but offers a religious exemption. St. Francis Healthcare System now supports this mandate.

We are not advocating a ban on emergency contraceptive pills altogether. We are only asking that it not be made a legal requirement for St. Francis Healthcare System and Hawaii Medical Center, which shares and fully supports Catholic ethical and religious values and ask that you pass the bill with the added religious exemption.

Our request is reasonable and logical. Just as others may not want Catholic health care groups to impose our beliefs on them, we are asking Hawaii's lawmakers to do the same. No matter which side of the issue you may be on regarding abortion, we urge you to not impose values and requirements on Catholic health care organizations that go against our beliefs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sister Agnelle Ching, OSF
Chief Executive Officer
St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii