



St. Francis Healthcare System  
of Hawaii

Fax to: House Sergeant-of-Arms – 586-6501  
For House Committee on Judiciary Hearing  
Thursday, March 4, 2004; 9:00 a.m., Auditorium, 35 copies

**Committee on Judiciary**

**Rep. Eric G. Hamakawa, Chair**  
**Rep. Blake K. Oshiro, Vice Chair**

**Testimony on H.B. 862**

St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii opposes H.B. 862 and finds it indefensible to support a public policy that permits physician-assisted suicide.

St. Francis has an unmatched reputation of assisting terminally ill patients and their loved ones in facing the final stages of living with dignity and meaning. Patients are accepted from all sources and care is provided regardless of race, national origin, color, religion, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, diagnosis or ability to pay. While physician-assisted suicide could seem an appealing alternative when financial resources are stretched and caregivers are exhausted, St. Francis Hospice offers compassionate care focused on alleviating the potential distress of patients and their families. Each patient has unique needs and desires that need to be met during their final days; St. Francis helps them meet those needs and desires free of pain and suffering with care in harmony with their beliefs and cultural values. When necessary, St. Francis offers symptom management including pain management and sedation necessary to relieve suffering while addressing both the spiritual and psychological needs appropriate to each dying patient and their caregivers.

St. Francis Healthcare System believes that physician-assisted suicide should not be legalized and that terminally ill patients can have more control over the circumstances of their death when provided appropriate end-of-life care. Expediting death through physician-assisted suicide is an alternative that cannot be accepted.

Eugene N. Tiwanak  
Chief Foundation Officer

March 3, 2004