

Hawaii Catholic Conference

Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii

February 1, 2005

Fax to: House Sgt. At Arms @586-6501
For the House Committee on Health
Hearing on: February 5, 2005 @ 9:00 a.m.
45 Copies

TO: House Health Committee
Honorable Dennis Arakaki, Chair
Honorable Josh Green, MD, Vice-Chair

FROM: Kelly Rosati, JD
Lobbyist, Hawaii Catholic Conference

RE: **STRONG OPPOSITION** TO HB1454 Relating to Death With Dignity

Mr. Chair and members of the House Committee on Health, I am Kelly Rosati, lobbyist for the Hawaii Catholic Conference, which is the public policy arm of the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii. The Hawaii Catholic Conference, under the leadership of Diocesan Administrator Very Reverend Tom Gross, represents the over 230,000 Catholics in the State of Hawaii.

Most families in Hawaii will eventually face the difficult situation of caring for a loved one who is dying. As supporters of ohana, we support death with dignity for all Hawaii's people – but we do not support physician-assisted suicide.

On January 20, 2005, Marc Alexander, the Diocesan Theologian (and former executive director of the Hawaii Catholic Conference) gave a talk on this subject at the annual Red Mass. (The text of his talk is attached.) It is comprehensive in nature and extensively researched. We hope you will find it useful and we urge you to reject HB 1454.