



March 25, 2003

To: House Committee on Health
Honorable Dennis Arakaki, Chair
Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members

President
Francis B. Oda

*Vice-President /
Treasurer*
Austin Imamura

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Honorable Michael Kahikina, Chair
Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members

Secretary
Nancy Pace

From: Kelly Rosati, Executive Director

Re: **Support** for HCR132, HR109, Requesting the Executive Office on Aging to establish an advisory commission on Hawaii palliative care and pain management.

Directors
Murray Bawden
Gill Berger
Mary Lou Brogan
Mitch D'Olier
Bill Paty

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. One of the most difficult times in the life of any individual and his or her family is facing the dying process. These resolutions will improve end-of-life care for people facing death and, as such, will improve life for many Hawaii families. As a result, HFF **strongly supports** their passage.

By establishing an advisory commission on Hawaii palliative care and pain management within the Executive Office on Aging, Hawaii will demonstrate its commitment to improving end-of-life care.

People facing the end of their lives deserve the best possible end-of-life care. They deserve to have both their pain and symptoms managed effectively. They deserve to be comfortable and to understand what is happening at both a physical and emotional level. They deserve to be surrounded by loved ones until death comes. People facing the end of their lives currently have the right to refuse unwanted medical treatments. They have the right to designate a surrogate to make health care decisions for them in the event of their incapacity. They have the right to engage in advance care planning to determine the course of their future care and treatment. They have the option of dying at home through the use of hospice care. But too many people are unaware of these rights and/or they lack the information necessary to assist them.

Additionally, too many health care delivery systems and providers fail to employ the most current end-of-life care tools available to them. Hopefully, with the creation of an advisory commission, these things will improve.

By focusing on pain management and palliative care, the new commission would continue in the tradition of Kokua Mau by playing a leadership role in the continued improvement of Hawaii's end of life care. We urge your **support** of HCR132/HR109. Mahalo for your kind consideration.