



February 10, 2003

To: The Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice Chair  
Honorable Committee Members

From: Kelly Rosati

Re: Support for SB 1062: Relating to Improving End-of-Life Care

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. SB 1062 will improve end-of-life care for people facing death and, as such, will improve life for many Hawaii families. As such, HFF **strongly supports** its passage.

By establishing a center for end-of-life care within the Executive Office on Aging, SB 1062 will help provide additional information and services for the community.

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. SB 1062 will help these very people by helping to improve care and increase resources.**

People facing the end of life also naturally have great fears. They fear pain, they fear losing control and they fear death. They deserve to have their fears addressed. SB 1062 addresses these very issues.

By focusing on policy analysis in the areas of pain management and palliative care, the new center 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 SB 1062. Mahalo for your kind consideration.

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