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For the Senate Health Committee
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March 30, 2004

To: Senate Committee on Ways & Means
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members

From: Nancy Pace, M.D., HFF Board Member

Re: **Support** for HB 1839 SD 1, Relating to Pain Patient's Bill of Rights
Hearing on Thursday, April 1, 2004

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 1839 SD 1. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. As a result of our commitment to the families in Hawaii, we are pleased to support this bill which would give patients suffering from serious pain the right to receive appropriate medication to relieve the pain. This bill also protects physicians treating patients in chronic pain while giving patients important options at a difficult time.

Protecting physicians in their role to relieve pain is important as we continue to make significant progress in treatments relative to end-of-life care. This bill reflects a sound approach as it allows physicians to aggressively treat pain or refer the patient to a pain management specialist, if the physician cannot effectively treat the pain.

HB 1839 SD 1 is a no-cost measure that will aid and protect physicians in their role of helping patients and their families deal with severe pain. Allowing physicians to relieve intractable pain will go along way in alleviating some of the numerous challenges and fears associated with end-of-life care. It will also continue to improve Hawaii's pain management efforts and end-of-life care and give much needed pain relief to patients and comfort to their families. Therefore we urge passage of this measure.

Mahalo nui loa for your kind consideration.