



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## House Committee on Health

### SB 0137, SD 2, Relating to Health

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health

March 15, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** Support with Reservations.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** One general funded registered nurse (RN V) position would be required. Annual  
3 expenses are estimated to be approximately \$120,000 including travel costs (mileage and neighbor  
4 island travel).

5 **Purpose and Justification:** In 2009 the legislature passed what became Act 21, Special Session Laws  
6 of Hawaii 2009. The purpose of Act 21 was to protect consumers of home care services by requiring  
7 home care agencies to be licensed. DOH supports this intent and has collaborated with home care  
8 agencies, consumer advocates and other stakeholders to draft the administrative rules needed to  
9 implement licensing in the event resources became available. Those draft rules are in the last stage of  
10 the approval process. However, this activity cannot be absorbed by current licensing and support staff  
11 or resources without negatively impacting other licensing activities.

12 As a result, the department supports this measure so long as any appropriation does not adversely  
13 impact priorities in the Governor's Executive Budget.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.