



In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

October 1, 2018

Aloha Community Partners:

You may be aware that Act 2, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, the "Our Care, Our Choice" Act was enacted this past April. This law established a regulated process under which an adult resident of the State with a medically confirmed terminal disease and less than six months to live may choose to obtain a prescription for medication to end the patient's life. The effective date for these requests is January 1, 2019.

Governor Ige and the Department of Health (DOH) testified in support of this measure and DOH was tasked with implementation. Guided by an advisory group, the department is working with the community to assure the patient experience is optimal and includes robust linkages to the end-of-life care continuum.

With that in mind, I am writing to request your organization consider implementation issues, such as the need for patient access to:

- Two different physicians,
- A mental health provider,
- A pharmacy, and
- Means to pay for encounters and medication.

The department urges relevant entities to have policies and procedures prior to January 1, 2019 to minimize patient and family burdens; for example, policies for staff who may individually object to the law, or preferential scheduling of appointments, which may include telehealth.

Please discuss Act 2 with your organization's administrative and clinical leadership at your earliest opportunity. Regardless of participation, patients may turn to you as a healthcare provider for guidance. Feel free to contact me with your thoughts or concerns, or with program staff directly overseeing implementation: Mr. Lorrin Kim, Chief, Office of Planning, Policy, and Program Development at [lorrin.kim@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:lorrin.kim@doh.hawaii.gov) or 586-4189.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bruce S. Anderson".

Bruce S. Anderson, PhD  
Director of Health