

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
DIRECTOR

MAZIE K. HIRONO
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
INSURANCE DIVISION

WAYNE METCALF
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS
P. O. BOX 3614
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96811-3614
250 S. KING ST., 5TH FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Wayne Metcalf, Insurance Commissioner
Insurance Division
Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs
586-2799

Congresswoman Mink to Discuss Federal Patients' Bill of Rights Legislation

HONOLULU – August 21, 2001 – Insurance Commissioner Wayne Metcalf today announced that U.S. Representative Patsy T. Mink is scheduled to be in Honolulu to discuss the federal Patients' Bill of Rights legislation currently pending before Congress. Congresswoman Mink will discuss the federal legislation with members of the Hawaii Patient Rights and Responsibilities Task Force at the August 28, 2001 meeting of the Task Force. "We are fortunate that Congresswoman Mink's schedule has enabled her to be in Honolulu to discuss this very important issue with the members of the Task Force. We hope to gain a better understanding of how passage of a federal Patients' Bill of Rights will affect patients' rights and protection in Hawaii," stated Metcalf, who also serves as Chair of the Task Force.

Both Houses of Congress have passed different versions of the Patients' Bill of Rights. The next step in the process will be a House-Senate conference committee, which is expected to begin work sometime in September. Congresswoman Mink is expected to discuss the differences between the House and Senate bills and the potential preemption of Hawaii's Patients' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities Act, which was passed in 1998.

-M O R E-

In 1998, the Legislature passed the Hawaii Patients' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities Act to provide health care consumers with specific rights and protections. The 1998 Act also created the Patient Rights and Responsibilities Task Force to review various laws that provide protection of patient rights and to determine whether consumer rights are fully protected under the Act.

The Hawaii Insurance Division oversees the insurance industry in Hawaii; issues licenses; examines the fiscal condition of Hawaii-based companies; reviews rate and policy filings; and investigates insurance related complaints and prosecutes motor vehicle insurance fraud cases.

###