

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

To Whom It May Concern:

The Comfort Care Only bill was passed by the Hawaii State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. Beginning July 1, 1995, a "COMFORT CARE ONLY-DO NOT RESUSCITATE" (CCO-DNR) I.D. bracelet or necklace became available for those individuals choosing to receive only comfort care such as oxygen, medication for pain, suctioning of oral secretions, and other comfort measures should they stop, or are about to stop breathing. They will NOT receive resuscitation efforts such as rescue breathing, chest compressions, electric shock, or medications intended to try to restart the heart.

Please note that the CCO-DNR law is NOT the same thing as a living will. A living will works for patients in hospitals and nursing homes but will not be effective in the prehospital setting for ambulance personnel and rescuers. Therefore, paramedics will still attempt to resuscitate a person who has a living will. However, if a person is wearing a CCO-DNR ID bracelet or necklace, they will receive comfort care but not resuscitation.

If you are interested in obtaining a CCO-DNR ID or want more information about the CCO-DNR program, you should contact your physician who will be able to answer your questions. If your physician is not familiar with this program, they can contact this office at (808) 733-8331 for more information or to obtain the required forms. You can also obtain the forms from this office and have your physician review them at your next appointment.

Sincerely,

Emergency Medical Services Branch
Department of Health
State of Hawaii

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness