

VIEWS & VOICES

OUR VIEW

KANEOHE CAMPUS

State hospital learly needs ew facilities

There is little doubt that the Hawaii State Hospital is in need of more capacity beds, plus improved ways to optimize staffs and other resources to deal with its men- tially ill and violent — pa-

It is easy to root for the Kaneohe campus' up- grade. An unveiled Tuesday plan aims to increase capacity to 516 beds from 178, a move to deal with the increase in people committed to the

upgrade is easily forthcoming, will be the plan for a new maximum-security wing envisioned at the campus

and hospital officials are carrying a heavy lift in convincing lawmakers to justify this

mental health patients committed there by the state courts.

>> As Hawaii's homeless population has grown, it's become visibly apparent that a certain segment suffers from severe mental illness.

Arrests of mentally ill homeless have contributed to the State Hospital's overcrowding because detainees often arrive in court unfit to proceed and are sent there for assessment. More capacity is needed to enable appropriate treatment more readily for those who urgently need it.

WITH SO many deficiencies at the hospital — resulting from years of deferred attention — a purposeful strategy must emerge. Four months ago, there was much buzz about another portion of the HSH complex: a proposal to replace the deten-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Responsibility without accountability pointless

"Retooling of outdated taxicab rules gains supporters" proclaims the first page of the Star-Advertiser (Sept. 25).

The article makes perfectly clear that the government is responsible for taxi regulation to protect the public.

It also is plain that no one is to be held accountable for the sub-standard rules and/or enforcement that has been and is happening now.

Responsibility without attendant accountability will almost always result in no effective action at all.

Making that point, the article says the city official overseeing taxi regulation observed that she was powerless to deny a man with multiple criminal convictions a permit because the law gave her no leeway.

In other words, the exact wording of the law trumps any genuine protection of the customer.

That is obviously wrong. It is also typical.

Richard O. Rowland
Chairman and founder,
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Planned Parenthood should be defunded

Now is the time to be involved in asking for the defunding of Planned Parenthood, especially now that all the terrible videos of the selling of baby parts have become public.

Our governor and our state legisla-

tors, as well as our members of Congress, have been contacted about defunding Planned Parenthood of Hawaii. They have been asked to stop any funding from federal tax dollars and Hawaii state taxes and to ban Planned Parenthood from any funding in the future.

They have also been asked to initiate an investigation into what the Planned Parenthood facilities of Hawaii have been doing.

At this time, nothing is being done, and in spite of the signatures that we have gathered, it appears that no one intends to do anything in response to our request.

The time is now.

Barbara J. Ferraro
Hawaii state director,
Concerned Women for America
Hilo

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