

JAN 25 2006

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HANA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 263, Session  
2 Laws of Hawaii 1996, authorized the transfer of the Hana medical  
3 center from the State to the Hana Community Health Center in  
4 July 1997, with a guarantee to continue providing needed  
5 financial support for the center's essential medical programs.  
6 The Hana community would not have accepted this transfer without  
7 the commitment to ensure the center's continued viability.

8           The legislature further finds that Hana, Maui, is one of  
9 the most isolated areas in the State. During the rainy season  
10 from October to March, the frequent storms often wash out the  
11 roadways and disrupt electricity and telephone service. Hana  
12 town is fifty-seven miles from Wailuku, and the trip takes two  
13 hours along a single-lane road with six hundred seventeen turns  
14 and fifty-six one-lane bridges. The district is made up of  
15 small, isolated settlements scattered over more than two hundred  
16 square miles. Many of the villages are located a minimum of  
17 forty-five minutes from the main town of Hana.



1           The Hana Community Health Center provides a hybrid of  
2 services. Unlike most clinics, the center must also coordinate  
3 activities with the ambulance services and provide assistance in  
4 stabilizing patients with life-threatening illnesses or  
5 traumatic injuries. These services are required twenty-four  
6 hours a day because the center is the only health care provider  
7 in the district. The coordination of emergency services and  
8 provision of life support care is absolutely essential to the  
9 three thousand residents of Hana and the five hundred thousand  
10 tourists who visit annually.

11           Hana also has some of the worst health and socioeconomic  
12 indicators in the State. Native Hawaiians account for sixty-  
13 five per cent of all the center's patients. Hana is federally  
14 designated as a medically underserved population, mental health  
15 underserved population, dental underserved population, and as a  
16 health professional shortage area. The center currently  
17 provides prevention-oriented health care, acute and chronic  
18 care, urgent care, limited laboratory testing, limited x-ray  
19 services, and prepackaged medications in lieu of a full  
20 pharmacy. A limited level of home health care is also provided,  
21 and seniors and those with mobility problems have benefited from  
22 this program.



1           In fiscal year 2003-2004, the center provided medical care  
2 to 1,755 patients, who made 5,452 visits, an increase of almost  
3 nine per cent from the previous fiscal year. Visitors accounted  
4 for twenty per cent of the patients, all of whom required urgent  
5 or emergency care. There were two hundred fifty-four urgent or  
6 emergency patient visits, fifty-eight requiring emergency  
7 transport to a tertiary facility. Almost nineteen per cent of  
8 the patients served did not have health insurance, and twenty  
9 per cent of the patients receiving care were insured through a  
10 medicaid or medicare health plan.

11           The center provided dental services to five hundred sixty-  
12 six patients, who made one thousand eight hundred seventy-nine  
13 visits to the dentist. Forty per cent of those dental patients  
14 were children and adolescents. One-third of patients served had  
15 no dental insurance, and twenty-one per cent of those receiving  
16 care were insured through a medicaid dental plan.

17           Through a small federal grant, the center started "Mai E  
18 Ai", a lunch program for seniors age sixty years or older.  
19 Based on the traditional Hawaiian diet, a "local style" cooking,  
20 healthy meals prepared mostly from food available in the Hana  
21 district are served four days a week. Mai E Ai includes a  
22 physical fitness program before lunch and transportation to and



1 from the program for kupuna in need. Home delivered meals are  
2 provided for those seniors unable to participate in the program  
3 due to physical limitations. Mai E Ai served one thousand  
4 sixty-nine congregate meals and eight thousand one hundred  
5 ninety-four home delivered meals to sixty kupuna.

6 When the center was operating as the Hana medical center as  
7 part of the State's community hospitals system, it required a  
8 subsidy of approximately \$1,500,000 annually. Immediately upon  
9 transfer of the Hawaii health systems corporation in fiscal year  
10 1997-1998, the legislature reduced its appropriation for the  
11 center's operations to \$1,064,000. This was a thirty per cent  
12 reduction in funding in its first year of operation. In fiscal  
13 year 1998-1999, the legislature appropriated \$800,000 for the  
14 operation of the center, \$264,000 less than the amount  
15 appropriated the year before, or a second reduction of twenty-  
16 five per cent in the center's second year of operation. In the  
17 following two years, the legislature appropriated \$750,000 for  
18 operations, a further reduction of six per cent during the  
19 center's third year of operation. In fiscal year 2003-2004, the  
20 legislature reduced the appropriation to \$700,000, but increased  
21 it back to \$750,000 for fiscal year 2004-2005. This amount is  
22 at least fifty per cent less than the cost of operations before



1 the transfer to the center, or \$617,300 less than what it cost  
2 the State to operate it.

3 The center has demonstrated an ability to generate funds  
4 from a variety of funding sources for the initiation of new  
5 programs and services. However, state support will always be  
6 required to fund core medical services. This is a fact  
7 recognized by the state administration and the legislature prior  
8 to privatization.

9 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the Hana  
10 Community Health Center to allow it to continue its current  
11 level of operations and further develop its capacity to meet the  
12 on-going needs of this isolated community.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000, or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for  
16 the following at the Hana Community Health Center:

- 17 (1) Operational expenses \$1,052,780
- 18 (2) Equipment for nutrition training center \$200,000
- 19 (3) Commercial kitchen equipment \$747,220

20 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
21 department of health for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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**Report Title:**

Hana Community Health Center; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the Hana Community Health Center.

