
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HANA HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hana, Maui is one of
2 the most isolated areas in the State. During the rainy season,
3 October to March, frequent storms often wash out the roadways
4 and disrupt electricity and telephone services. Hana town is
5 fifty-seven miles from Wailuku. The trip takes approximately
6 two hours along a single lane road with six hundred seventeen
7 turns and fifty-six one-lane bridges. The district is made up
8 of small, isolated settlements scattered over two hundred
9 thirty-three square miles. Many of the villages are located a
10 minimum of forty-five minutes from the main town of Hana. Many
11 homes do not have basic utilities such as electricity,
12 telephones, and running water.

13 Operating since 1997, the purpose of Hana Health is to
14 improve the general health and well being of the Hana community
15 through the provision of medical care and other social,
16 economic, and health related programs. Hana Health is the only
17 health care provider in the Hana district, serving the primary



1 health care and emergent medical needs of residents and visitors
2 alike. Hana has been designated by the federal government as a
3 medically underserved population, a primary care health
4 professional shortage area, a dental health professional
5 shortage area, and a mental health professional shortage area.
6 In September 2002, Hana Health was designated a Federally
7 Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Hana Health is also a Native
8 Hawaiian Health Center as defined in pending legislation for the
9 Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act.

10 Hana Health provides a hybrid of services because of Hana's
11 relative isolation. Unlike most primary care clinics, Hana
12 Health must also coordinate activities with the ambulance
13 service and provide assistance in stabilizing patients with life
14 threatening illnesses or traumatic injuries. These services are
15 required twenty-four hours a day because the center is the only
16 full service health care provider in the district. The
17 coordination of emergency services and provision of life support
18 care is absolutely essential to the 2,500 residents of Hana and
19 the six hundred thousand tourists who visit annually.

20 Hana Health has been providing primary and urgent medical
21 care, oral health care, mental and behavioral health care,
22 pre-packaged medications in lieu of a full pharmacy, laboratory



1 testing, transportation services, and limited home health for
2 those with mobility problems in this rural community since its
3 inception. Additional Hana Health programs include:

4 (1) Services for the elderly such as, healthy congregate
5 and home delivered meals, exercise programs,
6 traditional Hawaiian lomilomi therapy, home
7 healthcare, transportation, case management services
8 and family caregiver support services;

9 (2) Nutrition and fitness programs for the management and
10 prevention of chronic disease;

11 (3) Complimentary and traditional health care such as
12 lomilomi therapy and acupuncture; and

13 (4) The Hana Fresh Farm, which provides food for Hana
14 Health's nutrition programs, includes a Hawaiian
15 medicinal garden, and employs a number of Hana
16 residents recovering from substance abuse problems.

17 Local workforce development is and will continue to be the
18 key to meeting the immediate and long-range staff needs of Hana
19 Health as well as improve the economic status of Hana's
20 population. The majority of Hana Health's allied health
21 professionals are native Hawaiians from the Hana district and



1 most are developing their skills "on the job". Seventy-four per
2 cent of the patients served are native Hawaiian.

3 Hana Health's board of directors identifies and plans for
4 community needs based on a formal process of data collection and
5 strategic planning. Focus groups among specific target
6 populations, such as kupuna, caregivers, youth, women with
7 children, community-wide needs assessments, satisfaction surveys
8 and suggestion boxes, review and analysis of community
9 demographic profiles, anecdotal information provided by staff
10 and board members regarding community needs and concerns, and
11 informal and professionally facilitated strategic planning
12 meetings are the basis for Hana Health's strategic and
13 long-range goals. In order to address identified needs and
14 achieve service objectives, the development of Hana Health's
15 infrastructure is of primary importance.

16 Built in 1965, the current medical center is more than
17 forty years old. Originally designed as a small hospital, the
18 layout is not conducive to the current primary health care and
19 urgent care setting. Current programs have outgrown the four
20 thousand square foot facility and six trailers have been leased
21 and placed on the property to help alleviate the space crunch.
22 These trailers currently house behavioral and mental health and



1 wellness programs, acupuncture, lomilomi services,
2 administrative offices and farm support. Patients and staff are
3 often required to walk through the rain and mud to reach the
4 trailers located behind the clinic. There is inadequate
5 lighting in the evening, which creates a safety hazard. Health
6 and wellness programs are often conducted outside, under a tent.
7 Restroom facilities are inadequate to meet patient and staff
8 needs. Staff and patients located in the trailers must walk
9 through rain and mud in order to use the restroom.
10 Administrative offices are scattered throughout the campus,
11 complicating communication and the use of shared equipment such
12 as copy and fax machines and mail machines. There are no
13 meeting or conference rooms. Board and staff meetings generally
14 take place under a tent.

15 A seventy-five year old, six hundred square foot house has
16 been divided into three sections and provides space for the
17 nutrition center, administrative office space, and a staff
18 residence. This structure is deteriorating rapidly due to
19 extreme termite damage and weather rot. Daylight is visible
20 through many areas of the floor and several walls. The
21 nutrition center portion is approximately one hundred square
22 feet and is used to prepare healthy meals and snacks for one



1 hundred kupuna, four hundred school children, and more than one
2 hundred other program participants. Meals are either served
3 under a tent on the Hana Health campus or delivered to off-site
4 locations for consumption.

5 A second house on the property, also more than fifty years
6 old, is occupied by the paramedics twenty-four hours a day,
7 seven days a week, who provide urgent care and transport
8 services in partnership with Hana Health.

9 There is no staff lunch room, or an area to place personal
10 belongings. Storage space is non-existent. There are two
11 rapidly deteriorating sheds that are used to store everything
12 from medical records to office supplies to medical equipment and
13 the backup generator. The plumbing is old and in need of
14 constant repair and maintenance. Existing cesspools need to be
15 replaced with septic tanks in order to comply with existing
16 standards. The electricity is inadequate to meet the needs of
17 modern technology. Central air conditioning only exists in a
18 portion of the building, requiring the use of window air
19 conditioners in several of the examination rooms, dental
20 offices, and the computer room. These are generally replaced
21 twice a year due to the poor state of the electrical system.



1 Currently, no senior housing exists in the district of
2 Hana. Many of Hana's seniors are living in social isolation, or
3 are removed from the community to facilities on the other side
4 of the island. More than sixty per cent of Hana residents
5 believe that a member of their family will need assisted living,
6 a group home environment, respite care, adult day care, or home
7 health care within five years, and more than thirty per cent of
8 respondents need these services now.

9 As of December 2007, there are three known persons in the
10 Hana district with end stage renal disease (ESRD) who are
11 receiving hemodialysis treatments. These patients living in
12 Hana must endure the long and difficult five-hour roundtrip
13 journey to Kahului three times a week, in order to obtain
14 lifesaving care because this service is not available in the
15 Hana district. This situation is highly undesirable for two
16 reasons:

17 (1) The long trip is an exhausting experience and only
18 serves to further erode the health status of ESRD
19 patients who already have severe underlying diseases
20 such as diabetes and hypertension; and

21 (2) The prolonged absence of ESRD patients from the Hana
22 district is socially destructive, resulting in regular



1 separation from family, friends, and local community
2 support systems.

3 Hana Health is a Hawaii nonprofit corporation. This
4 appropriation would help assure the health, safety, and welfare
5 of residents and visitors to the Hana community and would,
6 therefore, serve a public purpose. The purpose of this Act is
7 to appropriate funds as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii
8 Revised Statutes, to Hana Health to further develop its capacity
9 to meet the on-going needs of this isolated community.

10 The legislature finds and declares that this Act is in the
11 public interest and for the public health, safety, and welfare.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 as a grant
15 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the
16 following at Hana Health:

- 17 (1) Commercial kitchen
- 18 construction/equipment
- 19 installation \$1,750,000
- 20 (2) Independent senior housing design
- 21 and construction to include



1 home-based dialysis, adult day
2 care, and respite services \$2,500,000
3 (3) Medical facility upgrade/expansion
4 design documents \$750,000

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
6 health for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



Report Title:

Hana Health; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds, as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, HRS, to Hana Health to further develop its capacity to meet the on-going needs of the community. (SD1)

