

**Testimony of
Mark Nakashima
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**Before the Joint Legislative Committees
Wednesday, August 13, 2008
University of Hawaii at Hilo UCB 100**

The Honorable Roslyn Baker, Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns regarding the recent announcement by the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation that they anticipate a potential shortfall of \$62 million by the end of the 2009 fiscal year.

I am very concerned that in addressing this fiscal dilemma, the HHSC has announced layoffs that will certainly impact the services available to the residents of the Big Island and will have potentially devastating consequences to the most vulnerable members of our community.

I would like to thank the members of this Joint House and Senate Committees in holding these meetings to allow for the deliberative oversight of this very important issue and ask that positive steps be taken to insure the continued delivery of quality health care to the residents of the state's rural communities.

Aloha,



Mark Nakashima