



LATE TESTIMONY

The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

July 21, 2008

The Honorable Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Lingle:

I am writing to voice my deep concern regarding the healthcare crisis with the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), in particular Hawaii island and ask for your help in seeking ways to continue to provide accessible healthcare to our rural residents.

As you know, the emergency rooms in Kona and Hilo address the needs of many uninsured patients, who will suffer greatly due to the cutbacks at our HHSC hospitals. Sacrificing the health and welfare of our people, will in turn be an added burden to our State as healthcare may no longer be preventive.

It is the State's responsibility to help our residents, so I urge you to work with the Legislature to find ways to resolve this ongoing issue. There must be a way to aid the HHSC now, whether it is changing the 4% restrictions on spending that you imposed, releasing grants-in-aid or other funds to be used to help the hospitals, and/or declaring a state of emergency and infusing the HHSC with the finances needed to weather this current situation.

Time is of the essence, as Kona Community Hospital has already cutback on staff and services. This could result in the loss of life if adequate healthcare is unobtainable. It would be extremely regrettable if lives were lost due to these cutbacks.

I strongly urge you to help the HHSC now.

Sincerely,
Lorraine R. Inouye
Senator, 1st District



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

August 4, 2008

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Inouye:

Thank you for your letter dated July 21, 2008, sharing your concerns about healthcare access and the state's community hospital system. As you, I place great value on our state hospital system and want to see our hospitals thrive so quality healthcare services continue to be provided to Hawaii's communities.

The Senate Ways & Means Committee and the House Finance Committee have started a series of public hearings to determine options for addressing the funding shortfalls in the state's public health systems. In addition to the Hawaii State Health System Corporation, the State Departments of Health and my office have provided information to these legislative committees. I understand informational hearings will continue in August on the islands of Kauai and Maui and will be scheduled soon for the Island of Hawaii.

My Administration has indicated we will provide assistance, the extent permissible under HRS 323F-11 and 323F-24, which limits the executive branch's authority to intervene in the operations of the state hospital network.

I encourage you to communicate your concerns to the relevant legislative bodies who are taking the lead on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE

§323F-11 Executive branch; noninterference. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the governor and executive branch agencies shall limit their responsibilities to that of review and oversight when the corporation or regional system board receives general funds from the State to subsidize the operating budgets of deficit facilities. The governor and executive branch agencies shall not interfere with the systemic change, capacity building, advocacy, budget, personnel, system plan development, or plan implementation activities of the corporation or any regional system board. The governor and executive branch agencies shall not interfere with the ability of the corporation or regional system board to function as a multiple facility public hospital system delivering health care services to the residents of the State. [L 1996, c 262, pt of §2; am L 2007, c 290, §29]

[Previous](#)

[Vol06_Ch0321-0344](#)

[Next](#)

§323F-24 Budget oversight. The corporation's and each regional system board's operating and capital improvement budgets shall not be subject to review or approval by the governor or any state agency, except where state general funds or capital improvement moneys are requested. If general funds or capital improvement moneys are requested, then the corporation or any regional system board shall include, with its request, the proposed budget for which the funds or moneys are to be included. The corporation and regional system boards, once operational, shall collaboratively submit their budgets annually to the legislature for review and approval at least twenty days prior to the convening of the regular legislative session, beginning with the budgets for the 2010-2011 biennium fiscal years. [L 1996, c 262, pt of §2; am L 2007, c 290, §33]

[Previous](#)

[Vol06_Ch0321-0344](#)

[Next](#)