

testimony

From: Harold Goldberg [halgol@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 6:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Kauai regional plan

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Senator Colleen Hanabusa:

As Chief of Staff and Chief Psychiatrist at Samuel Mahelona Hospital, I urge continued funding to support the hospital and the Psychiatric Unit. In our rural location, the hospital is the only source of in-patient psychiatric care and detoxification services on Kauai. We admit and treat approximately 200 patients annually. These patients meet national standards for requiring in-patient care and could not be treated in a less intensive setting. Most of the patients are admitted via emergency rooms on island and would be very difficult to transport to an off-island facility—even if beds were available on another island. The cost of air ambulance transport of an acute psychiatric patient would be about \$10,000/patient so that merely to transport emergency admissions would cost \$2,000,000 annually and they still need to be treated.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Goldberg, MD