

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

H.B. 1890, Making An Appropriation for Health Care Services

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 27, 2008, 12:15 P.M.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department respectfully opposes this measure, although we certainly
2 appreciate its intent, because it would adversely impact priorities as set form in the Executive
3 Supplemental Budget.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill does not specify the amount of funds to be appropriated, if new funds are
5 being added to the Department of Health budget or if the funds are being appropriated from the existing
6 Department of Health Budget.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to appropriate an unspecified sum to the
8 Department in FY 2008-2009. The funds are intended to supplement federal funds for HIV/AIDS care
9 service funds received through the Ryan White (CARE) Act. For Federal Ryan White Act grant cycle
10 which encompasses April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, the Hawaii State Department of Health
11 received \$3.2 million funding through the CARE Act. The extent to which funds may be in jeopardy or
12 the impact on specific HIV services due to the provisions of the recently reauthorized CARE Act cannot
13 be estimated at the present time.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



GREGORY HOUSE PROGRAMS

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
TIME: 12:15 PM
PLACE: State Capitol - Conference Room 308

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Executive Director
Jonathon Berliner
jonb@gregoryhouse.org

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1890

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Committee Members:

My Name is Jon Berliner, and I serve as executive director of Gregory House Programs, Hawaii's only statewide HIV/AIDS housing program.

Over the years, particularly from 1995 – 2002, state funding for HIV care services was continually reduced through budget restrictions, while at the same time case loads continued to increase. Hawaii will see a reduction in Federal Ryan White CARE Act (now called the Ryan White Modernization Act of 2006) funding due to newly established formulas that penalize smaller states with lower incidence rates. However, the need is still tremendous. Additionally, due to the federal budget for FY '09, just released by the president, funding for housing services for persons with HIV/AIDS is proposed to be level funded, while at the same time three new jurisdictions will be eligible thus meaning that all other jurisdictions will experience funding reductions, under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOPWA – Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program.

Additionally, HB 1890 is of particular importance now and has some very current urgency because the federal Department of Health & Human Services - HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) issued today (**February 26, 2008**) its Policy Notice 99-02 Amendment 1, entitled "The Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds for Housing Referral Services and Short-term or Emergency Housing Needs, provides grantees with guidance on the use of Title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act (Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program) funds for short-term and emergency housing assistance for persons living with HIV/AIDS that significantly restricts the use of Ryan White funds for housing services, and this amendment will significantly limit and negatively impact housing services for persons with HIV/AIDS .

Appropriate and adequate maintenance of funding is needed for the areas addressed in HB 1890. Specifically, without housing and support services, it is challenging for persons / families living with HIV/AIDS to access primary medical care. The services funded under HB 1890 are essential in providing stability in the lives of persons challenged with living with HIV/AIDS.

I urge the committee to pass HB 1890. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jonathon Berliner
Executive Director
Gregory House Programs

770 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 503, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 808-592-9022 Facsimile 808-592-9049
"Housing is Healthcare"

GLEA FOUNDATION

**The Gay and Lesbian Education and Advocacy Foundation
Information, Referral and Support Programs**

**William E. Woods-Bateman, MPH
Executive Director**

February 2-24-08

Support for HB 1890 – Providing additional support for health care services of HIV/AIDS patients

TO: House Finance Committee, Representative Marcus Oshiro and Committee

FROM: GLEA Foundation
William E. Woods-Bateman, MPH

Aloha Finance Committee.

There is not a day that goes by that someone does not ask for a way to have some level of health care service that is currently under funded or non-existent.

Now that HIV/AIDS is more a chronic illness rather than an immediate life sentence the magnitude of health care services increase due to longevity. Many articles of late have been talking about the aging HIV/AIDS persons that are now dealing with the treatments related to HIV/AIDS, but also that of aging and all that goes with that.

We fully understand that government cannot take care of everything. In this case I believe it has great merit for additional funding as the people living with HIV/AIDS are more productive if care is given. And if the service is not available they will wait till a condition is so progresses that they will have to enter the emergency room and hospital process which are extremely costly.

We believe this appropriation bill is in the interest of the State and the people of Hawaii and encourage its passage



Life Foundation

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Committee on Finance
 Wednesday, February 27, 2008
 12:15 p.m. in Room 308

HB 1890 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES

FIGHTING AIDS
 IN HAWAII
 AND THE PACIFIC

Chairman Oshiro and members of the Committee on Health:

Life Foundation, Hawaii's oldest and largest AIDS organization, would like to be recorded **In support** of this timely bill.

Hawaii can be proud of its early and effective response to the AIDS epidemic. The AIDS system here is a model of how the branches of government, working in close collaboration with the private sector, can successfully confront something as terrifying and stigmatized as AIDS.

As a result, we have a statewide system of HIV counseling/testing, HIV prevention and case management, in addition to programs that provide needed housing and nutritional assistance. We also have a statewide sterile needle exchange program and a university based clinical trials program that was rescued from near oblivion last year by the legislature.

However, we should not honor the good work done and the many people helped by allowing our well-crafted AIDS response system to decline due to lack of resources. AIDS is not over. AIDS caseloads continue to grow and remain high due to the fact that people are not dying in great numbers anymore. At the same time, they are not cured and many are unable to return to work. There will be an end to this – but it is nowhere in sight.

It should be noted that those of us who provide AIDS services have not been content to let the State bear the entire financial burden. We have been able to attract federal funds and we all are involved in unrelenting fundraising efforts. In saying that, I want to reaffirm that the State has a responsibility to fight this disease and assure you that your investment of the people's money in this cause will pay substantial dividends in lives saved and others spared from HIV. Thank you for your consideration.

677 ALA MOANA BLVD.

SUITE NO. 226

HONOLULU

HAWAII

96813

FAX 808 / 521 1279

PHONE 808 / 521 2437

www.lifefoundation.org

Paul S. Groesbeck
 Executive Director

Phone: 853-3234
 Email: pgroesbeck@lifefoundation.org

FINtestimony

From: DaCoconutWireless [DaCoconutWireless@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 10:29 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1890: Do We Have the Political Will, to Support the Necessary Funding, To End AIDS in Hawaii?

Updated Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1890NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
TIME: 12:15 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308
 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
 Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

HB 1890
(HSCR656)

Status

(Email Testimony)

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Appropriates funds to the department of health for health care and related services to people living with the human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

**Do We Have the Political Will, to Support the Necessary Funding,
 To End AIDS in Hawaii?**

**It is essential that we meet the needs of the HIV positive.
 Early detection of the HIV virus can end AIDS.**

Aloha Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair, Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My name is Scott Orton, and I have been living with AIDS for 8 years. What is AIDS? It is where the HIV virus, over time has destroyed the immune system, with a low t-cell count under 200. Early detection of the HIV virus can end AIDS with a proper medical regime here in Hawaii and elsewhere.

I'm Grateful for all the AIDS Service Organizations, and their dedication to helping individuals living with HIV. I am alive because of such programs and appreciate their contribution in saving lives. Thank You: Malama Pono, Kauai, Life Foundation, Oahu, Maui AIDS Foundation, Maui, HIHAF, Big Island, Save the FoodBasket, Oahu, Waikiki Health Center, Oahu, AIDS Clinical Trials, Oahu with services being rendered on other Islands. And Most important, Gregory House supporting housing for individuals on all islands.

We once had an exercise program for HIV, put on by the Waikiki Health Center that lasted over 5 years. It helped me rehabilitate my AIDS ravaged body thru encouraging exercise, good health habits,

and nutrition. This program has since been discontinued due to loss of a grant.

New Medications make it possible to end AIDS. With early intervention, an individual can avoid having the immune system being destroyed, and have an average life span.

Medicalization of HIV Programs, has given us good meds availability at the expense of other care programs.

Care is Prevention, and Prevention is Care. We need strong HIV programs for both prevention and care. These programs are essential in keeping people healthy who are living with HIV, and in preventing the spread of the virus. Hawaii will pay more in health care costs in the long run if it continues to accept AIDS funding cuts with no additional support.

The Hawaii HIV/AIDS Community Planning Group, CPG, is currently integrating these two separate programs, **Care & Prevention** for more efficiency, but *great plans with no funding go no where.*

Housing is Health Care. The CDC now acknowledges that housing people living with HIV is a new weapon in the war on AIDS. We currently have over 50 individuals waiting for assistance from Gregory House Programs.

Dental Services are essential in keeping healthy with a compromised immune system. It is important to our health to have good to excellent preventative dental care, to keep overall health care costs low.

Food and Nutrition Programs provide food, vitamin supplements, and other support services. Save the FoodBasket on Oahu provides hot lunches 2 time per week, groceries, home deliveries, supplements, hair cuts, and a place for people living with HIV to socialize and support each other. This kind of program is one of the most popular AIDS Service Organizations on Oahu. Outer Islands have limited food programs and need help in this area.

Education of our Youth is imperative to keep the spread of HIV in check. The DOE produced a video last year to be shown in the schools: HIV in Hawaii, Local People, Local Stories. This video is a supplement to the Hawaii Department of Education's HIV curriculum, Positive Prevention for the middle and high schools. Funding for this program has been cut off by the CDC.

Most important is to expand Anonymous Testing for HIV. The Newly Approved HIV Rapid test can now be used by the ASO's in Hawaii. Currently this testing process is only being used by Life Foundation. Since September, over 600 individuals were tested with 6 testing positive. An estimate of 25 percent of those infected with HIV don't know they are positive. Early detection is the key in lowering costs in fighting this epidemic.

Are we Penny wise and pound foolish? Money spent for these prevention and care programs is as important as the early establishment of the Needle exchange was. The Needle Exchange can be credited for the lowest of AIDS cases here in Hawaii. Washington D.C. is just starting a Needle Exchange has the highest number of AIDS Cases in the Nation.

Many Important Programs have been under funded: Housing, Food, Dental programs or other programs

cancelled outright: The Wellness Program

How Much is Enough Funding? 1, 2, Or 3 \$Million, do we give HIV Programs a band aid or the necessary funding to End AIDS here in Hawaii.

Then the report on Massachusetts example.

Massachusetts Should Increase Funding for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Outreach Services, Editorial Says

The following brief synopsis of the article that also similarly applies to Hawaii:

Massachusetts as "recently as 2001" was "spending \$51 million a year to prevent HIV/AIDS and provide services to those suffering from the disease," (Now) only \$37.1 million in his new budget -- just \$200,000 more than is being spent this year in Massachusetts.

HIV/AIDS spending "plummeted" during the "budget crisis in the early years of this decade,"

To reduce the spread of HIV, particularly in the "minority communities where it is taking its greatest toll," the state Legislature should "add substantially to the state's HIV/AIDS programs,"

Increased HIV prevention and outreach efforts could reduce the new HIV cases recorded annually.

People believed to be HIV-positive, an estimated (25%) don't know their status."

It adds that among men who have sex with men between ages 13 and 24 who were diagnosed with HIV from 2004 to 2006, 53% were (Minorities).

A "well-documented report on the heavy impact of HIV/AIDS on (minority) communities is similar in nature to minorities affected here.

The Legislature should "ensure the (DOH) has the resources it needs to reduce and prevent further transmission of the disease"

Love and Aloha,

**Scott Orton, an HIV/AIDS Awareness Advocate,
1130 Hassinger St. #3A
Honolulu, HI 96822 Ph: 808-383-2016**

Bcc: DaCoconutWireless Members and Others

Updated Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1890

Bill No. **HB 1890**
Bill title: **Making an Appropriation for Health Care Services**

Committee: House Finance
Chair: Rep. Marcus Oshiro
Hearing Date: Wednesday, 27 Feb 2008
Hearing Location: Conf Room 308, State Capitol

Testimony from: Tom Sheeran
PO Box 12110, Honolulu, HI 96828
Representing: People living with HIV/AIDS in Hawaii

Dear Committee Chairs Oshiro,

My name is Tom Sheeran and I have lived in Hawai'i since 1949. I have been HIV positive since 1983. I have until recently served as Co-Chair of Hawai'i CARES, the statewide planning body for AIDS care services, and also in recent years was Vice Chair of the Governor's Committee on HIV/AIDS. I would like to present written testimony **strongly in favor of HB 1890, Making an Appropriation for Health Care Services.**

I strongly support this bill because it will provide funding for vital services needed by people living with HIV/AIDS. While recent advances in treatment have allowed AIDS patients to live longer, there is still no cure.

Over 3,000 cases of HIV/AIDS have been reported in Hawai'i. More than 1,000 currently are living with AIDS, and many more are being treated for HIV disease.

Patients now live longer, but many are unable to return to work due to their health, and often due to the debilitating side effects of the treatments. These patients continue to need housing, nutrition services, and case management as well as life-saving medications, often for many years. While we hope that better treatments will offer a cure, or at least a better recovery, right now that is not the reality for most people with HIV/AIDS.

Unfortunately, the success of the new drugs in reducing deaths has led many to believe that "AIDS is OVER," and to believe that there is no crisis, as was so obvious when the epidemic started. This false belief has led to reductions in government funding and private donations, just at the time when more people are seeking treatment and needing services.

While the Federal Government has increased funding for AIDS drugs, the current administration and Congress have not added enough funding in recent years to provide for all persons who seek treatment. We are facing a crisis here in Hawai'i as our HDAP (Hawai'i AIDS Drug Assistance Program) reaches the breaking point. We fear that without additional state funding we will soon be forced to impose waiting lists and monetary caps. At the same time, the current administration has not increased the funding for the Ryan White Care Act for other emergency services besides drugs.

The current crisis facing people living with HIV/AIDS in Hawai'i is that new Federal guidelines now require that existing Ryan White funding that formerly provided housing and nutrition services for many in need be diverted for direct medical services and drugs, without providing adequate amounts to meet ALL the basic needs of patients. In simple terms, they are "robbing Peter to pay Paul," taking already inadequate funding for all services to cover the shortfall in drug costs.

The direct result is that many individuals throughout Hawai'i may lose their existing Gregory House Programs rental subsidies putting them at severe risk of homelessness. It should be obvious that without housing, successful treatment (complicated under the best circumstances) will be difficult, if not impossible. As one of those who have benefited from Gregory House Programs as a client, and who formerly served on the Board of Directors, I know how much it means to have the assistance to maintain decent housing. It can make all the difference between maintaining one's health and falling seriously ill. Housing IS healthcare!

The same factors will affect dozens, perhaps hundreds statewide who have received nutrition services (hot meals, groceries, often delivered to those who are homebound). How can people retain or regain their health if they are provided medications but denied housing and food?

In conclusion I would like to restate my strong support for passage of **HB 1890**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for the committee.

FINtestimony

From: DaCoconutWireless [DaCoconutWireless@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 1:27 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1890. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 12:15 p.m. Room 308

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1890.NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
 TIME: 12:15 P.M.
 PLACE: Conference Room 308
 State Capitol
 415 South Beretania Street

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
 Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE, HB 1890

Aloha Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair, Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support and to urge your support of HB1890. I am a person living with AIDS, thus making this a very important piece of legislation.

February, 2001, "Bill's Place" was created, and I was asked to be the General Manager. Bill's Place is a food distribution organization which allows the clients of The Foodbasket to come by to pick up their weekly supply of groceries, consisting of fresh milk, meat, fish, fresh produce, and some types of canned foods, and dry goods.

We are funded by government grants, (Ryan White – Federal), private grants that we have solicited, fundraisers, and private donations. Last year our Ryan White grants were slashed by 80%. Needless to say, this had a very negative effect. Less money to do more with? We have been very innovative, but have run out of ideas.

Our cost of goods, are ever increasing. We also have an ever increasing number of clients. With the passage of this bill, we will be able to continue our distribution of the same quality of goods and services to the HIV community..

Thank You,
Ray Abelsen, General Manager of "Bill's Place" for Save the FoodBasket
 Providing food, meals, and other services for the HIV Positive
 1130 Hassinger St. #2B
 Honolulu, HI 96822

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1890

FINtestimony

From: Jbrhawaii1 [jbrhawaii1@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 5:28 AM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: finance11-Akio
Subject: 2/27/2008 HB1890 Agenda #3

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1890.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
TIME: 12:15 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

REPRESENTING

Myself; West Oahu Hope For A Cure Foundation (Executive Director)

91-211 Makaina Place, Ewa Beach Hawaii 96706

Phone - (808) 685-6702

* I will be present to give oral Testimony and to answer any questions I am able to.

Aloha Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair, Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My name is Joseph Rattner and in less than 2 weeks I will be diagnosed HIV Positive for 17 years. I consider that date an Anniversary because of the life I was Blessed with despite the new ways of life I had to learn how to lead. Retiring early from my lively hood of Opticianry' and having to give up a lovely home is not what I had in mind, but HIV had different ideas for me.

My Disability from a life with HIV came to fruition when I moved to Hawaii from New Jersey 6 years ago. All of a sudden it was hard to obtain my medications, even more difficult to fulfill the Dentistry I so desperately needed, and the obvious sense that the HIV Community in Hawaii was suffering dramatically was a tremendously scary situation. I was wait listed by Gregory House Programs, the only Housing program in Hawaii for people living with HIV/AIDS. When I learned there was a gathering place that not only distributes Healthy food but as well as maintained a Vitamin Program, was music to my ears. Problem is that the Vitamin program has been slowly cut, year by year, as they delete many important Vitamins(now offering 3 basic kinds) with home delivery's reduced to once a month. Worse off, does the program cover the full ADAP formulary of Medications. There is already discussion about removing and/or changing important drugs to an HIVers life. There have been years that I needed to ask you all to pay for Medication to keep me alive.

Your heard my plight and three years ago SB 1227 was passed unanimously with just enough funding to allow an abnormally expensive medication to be dispensed through ADAP because the drug fell into the Protease Inhibitor category. The Governor signed off on \$50,000 which was to be split into: Half for the ADAP program and half for the HSPAMM program which pays for bi-annual examinations at Leahi Hospital. The only Wellnes Center on all of the Islands for people living with HIV was shut down this year leaving the Community lost in outer space when it came to working out or maintaining a balanced diet with a Nutritionist who was at the Center 75% of the time for exams, tests and advice.

We have had some very important legislation pending since last year at the Hawaii State legislature for funding of HIV Programs. Many requests were sent to have a hearing, so that this Bill HB 1890 could be considered by the House to then be passed out by the House Finance Committee. Up until yesterday, HB 1890 was still not scheduled for a hearing; even after meeting with Rep. M. Oshiro's staff, to personally ask for one. So, first I must say Mahalo to Rep. Marcus Oshiro and his Staff for believing in the necessity of this Bill. I am most grateful to you for calling a Hearing..

The HIV Community has put their hopes in SB 2890. Senate Bill SB 2890, introduced by Senator Will Espero, a similar measure for additional HIV funding was passed UNAMENDED by the Senate Health Committee, but the Bill will not be heard by (WAM) Ways and Means. Senator Baker is working very hard to find additional funding to add to the budget for HIV programs, but all she can do now is promise to try and find some funding.

Our hope for additional funding and support from the Hawaii Legislature is tentative at best this year. We had hoped to get extra funding for people living with HIV for Housing, Dental, Food, and other HIV programs. We are currently under funded in general for our AIDS Service Organizations, (ASOs), in Hawaii to operate efficiently. Our ASOs are hard pressed to even meet current demand by HIV positive clients. More clients are expected in next few years as new HIV rapid tests are implemented and the known HIV population here expands.

It is imperative that we meet the needs of the HIV Community. Hawaii needs to maintain strong HIV programs for both prevention and care. These programs are essential in keeping people

healthy who are living with HIV, and in preventing the spread of the virus. Hawaii will pay more in health care costs in the long run if it continues to accept AIDS funding cuts with no additional support. What is needed is the support of the ENTIRE Hawaii Legislature NOW, and ensure the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS . For these and so many other reasons I am strongly supporting HB 1890!

Thank you for your present support , and your help in creating a brighter future for people in Hawaii living with HIV or AIDS.

Joseph B. Rattner, OD, CSAC
Executive Director-WOHFAC
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Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
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Email-WOHFAC@hotmail.com
Website-www.wohfac.com

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FINtestimony

From: Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq. [jadamsesq@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 7:45 PM

To: FINtestimony

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1890. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 12:15 p.m. Room 308

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
TIME: 12:15 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Aloha Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair, Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Both while living in Seattle and while living in Hawaii, I lost dozens of dear friends to HIV/AIDS. While the lives of those suffering from HIV/AIDS has been extended greatly, it those living with HIV/AIDS suffer tremendous health challenges.

With the new medications that are available, and modern HIV rapid testing, we can prevent many who have are HIV from slipping into an AIDS diagnosis. It is possible to test with high accuracy, to test for HIV with the new HIV Rapid Test. Those that test positive for HIV can then be put on a medical regimen so they do not become sick with AIDS.

Those living with HIV are often far too weak to work full or part time. Consequently, the must rely on assistance for housing and dental programs. In light of a recent cutback in federal funding, we need to support additional funding to end the wait list for housing and dental programs and to support food programs such as Save the Food Basket.

Please support HB1890 and properly fund the programs to assist those who are living with HIV/AIDS.

Mahalo for your continued support for those with HIV/AIDS.

Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq.
LAW OFFICES OF JO-ANN M. ADAMS, LLLC
Seven Waterfront Plaza
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Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone: (808) 528-2100
Facsimile: (808) 952-9706

2/26/2008

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Bill No. ~~SB~~^{HB} 1890
Bill title: **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 (12:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 308

Testimony from: Cris Milne

Representing: Self

SUBMITTED FOR WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Committee Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and distinguished Members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing in support of ~~SB~~^{HB} 1890.

I see this as a very important bill to help provide care for people who are HIV +. I am a nurse who has worked closely with members of our community who are HIV + for over 13 years. I have found the services of the organizations that are funded by the Ryan White fund to be essential in providing health care and other very important social services.

Thank you for your time in considering this bill. Please fund it.

Cris Milne RNC, NP, MPH
1351 Humu'ula St.
Kailua, HI 96734

Bill No. **HB 1890**
Bill title: **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 (12:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 308

Testimony from: Lorna Nagamine, RN
2823B Varsity Circle
Honolulu, HI 96826

Re: Strong Support for HB 1890

SUBMITTED FOR WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Committee Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and distinguished Members of the Finance Committee:

Please support HB 1890 – Making an Appropriation for Health Care Services.

My name is Lorna Nagamine and I have been a registered nurse working with HIV/AIDS patients for the last 6 years. I feel that my work allows me to be in touch with the challenges that this community faces.

I ask that you support HB 1890 because I am concerned that Hawaii's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget from federal and state resources will reduce funding for some of the HIV/AIDS programs here. These programs are vital to many people living with HIV/AIDS. I don't think that the programs that support persons living with HIV/AIDS can continue the work that they do without additional funding. Housing, Dental, and food assistance programs are already under funded as it is.

I believe that this yearly decrease in funding will slowly break down an intricate web of programs that has been built up over time to support and provide for people living with HIV/AIDS as well as the general public. I think we should be proactive and support these programs now instead of waiting until we are in a crisis.

Please support House Bill HB 1890 which is meant to supplement the federal funds received from the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Bill (HR 6143).

Sincerely,
Lorna Nagamine

Bill No. **SB 1890**
Bill title: **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 (12:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 308

Testimony from: Debra Ogata-Arakaki

Representing: Nurses caring for people with HIV/AIDS

SUBMITTED FOR WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Committee Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and distinguished Members of the Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of HB 1890, (MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES).

My name is Debra Ogata-Arakaki. I was born and raised in Hawaii, and have spent the past 21 years working as an HIV research nurse and coordinator. I began my research career in 1986 at the National Institutes of Health, at a time when AIDS was at its infancy. There were no anti-HIV drugs available at that time. A diagnosis of AIDS was a death sentence. It was only through the tireless efforts of many researchers and nurses, dedicated and willing research participants that new drugs to treat HIV and its many infections were developed. Today, a diagnosis of HIV is no longer an ominous sentence and with proper care and treatment, people living with HIV can maintain healthy, productive lives.

I support this bill because it will help to support programs that have done, and can continue to do, valuable work for the people in Hawaii living with HIV. Programs such as HIV counseling and testing, HIV drug assistance programs, housing and food assistance, AIDS surveillance, and dental assistance are already under-funded. Federal funding for many HIV-related programs has decreased sizably over the past few years. Many programs will be unable to provide the level of services they have been able to provide in the past due to the continued cuts in funding. This bill will help to supplement the federal funds received through the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Bill and help to maintain these valuable programs.

The state can chose to financially assist the programs that support the health and welfare of HIV-infected individuals so they may be contributing, productive citizens, or they can

turn away and pay for it on the backend, supporting them financially in the hospital once they are ill.

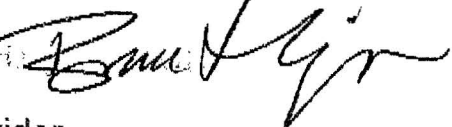
In summary, I would like to restate my strong support for passage of **SB 2890**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for the committee.

Bill No. **SB 1890**
Bill title: **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2009 (12:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 308

Testimony from: ³⁹⁰ Bruce Shjramizu, MD 

Representing: ^{IV} Community medical provider

SUBMITTED FOR WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Committee Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and distinguished Members of the Finance Committee: As a physician caring for patients in Hawaii who are infected and living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), access to appropriate and specialized healthcare is a paramount importance for these individuals. Because the therapy for HIV-infected individuals in Hawaii has improved over the last few years, many of these citizens are benefiting by living longer lives. However, now that they are living longer, continued access to proper care remains challenging because some of these individuals, now, do not have the means to afford specialized care. Therefore, I am fully supportive of this Appropriation and would appreciate your consideration to appropriate funds to the Department of Health for health care and related services to people living with the human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

HB 1890
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION
FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 (12:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 308

Testimony from: Dominic Chow, MD, MPH,
Director, Clint Spencer Clinic
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and Pediatrics, University of
Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

Representing: Clint Spencer Clinic

SUBMITTED FOR WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Committee Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and distinguished Members of the Finance Committee:

As the Director of the Clint Spencer Clinic, our clinic provides clinical care and education to a large number of Hawaii's HIV infected adult and pediatric population. We treat all individuals infected with HIV the same, regardless if they have insurance or not. Antiretroviral medications have dramatically improved the lives of our patients. However, for these life saving medications to be effective, these medications need to be taken regularly in the day. These medications need to be stored appropriately, often requiring refrigeration. In addition, many of these medications need to be taken with food. These expensive medications and therapy will not mean much if these patients are not able to take them appropriately. It is therefore essential that housing and food be supplemented for these infected individuals to achieve productive and healthy lives. The danger is that without food and housing assistance, many of these infected individuals may have worsening of their disease. The cost savings from removing the current food and housing assistance may be offset by the raising health related costs of worsening disease. There will be no savings and the health of our patients will be worse off.

I strongly support HB 1890, which proposes state funding to supplement the federal funds received from the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Bill (HR 6143). This bill would assist in supporting the care of our patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and your thoughtful consideration of this bill which is important to HIV infected individuals living in Hawaii.

FINtestimony

From: andrew j tabar [andenhi5@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 8:55 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1890 (HSCR 654)

To: **Committee on Finance**
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

From: **Andrew J. Tabar**
President
PWA Coalition Hawai'i, Inc.

RE: The following is written testimony in strong and urgent support of HB 1890 (HSCR 654). I plan to personally testify at the upcoming hearing on 2/27/08.

Dear Representatives:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in very strong support of HB 1890 (HSCR 654).

PWA Coalition Hawai'i is a 501 C 3 O'ahu-based group of volunteer activists dedicated to advocate for the rights and health care of people living with HIV and AIDS. As their spokesperson, on their behalf and many others who are living in the shadows of discrimination and strigmatization, I wish to bring to your attention and share with you current funding shortfall issues regarding HIV and AIDS in the Hawai'i nei.

As you may know, the number of residents in the Hawai'i continues to be infected and cases of HIV and AIDS are steadily rising. Although prevention efforts are difficult to evaluate their effectiveness, strides have been made to compile more accurate data. We still have a long way to go in prevention programs to educate and dispel the fear of getting tested for the antibodies. Direct services to HIV and AIDS continues to remain a vital concern.

Although the newer anti viral medication combinations have made it possible for many to return to some aspects of functional living, all persons immune comprised in this regard, are subject to known and as of yet unknown side effects. No long term studies have been completed to fully assess long term outcomes.

Here in Hawai'i. single individuals, those in families with keiki, and a growing population of 50 years and older, continue to be impacted by HIV and AIDS on a daily basis. Access to medications, comprehensive dental care, (including deep tissue cleanings and root canal treatments), housing, and good nutritional support are of the highest priorities for persons living on low incomes.

The Department of Health is aware that the numbers of HIV and AIDS cases continue to increase yet federal funding remains the same and has been cut over the years given the continual rise of infected persons.

2/26/2008

PWA Coalition Hawai'i urges our State Representatives to take additional care of those who are in most need of their help.

We again reiterate our strong support for HB 1890 (HSCR 654) legislation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We appreciate your collective and individual efforts on our behalf. Mahalo nui loa.

**Andrew J. Tabar
2415 Ala Wai Blvd., # 1801
Honolulu, HI 96815-3409**

808 - 923 - 2639

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