

# HB 1890

# HD 1

Measure Title:

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Report Title:

AIDS; HIV; Health Care; Appropriation

Description:

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. Effective 7/1/2020. (HB1890 HD1)

Introducer(s):

BELATTI, CALDWELL, CARROLL, HANOHANO, LEE, MAGAOAY, MANAHAN,  
MIZUNO, B. OSHIRO, M. OSHIRO, SAIKI, SHIMABUKURO, TAKUMI, WAKAI,  
Berg, Brower, Chang, Chong, Evans, Karamatsu, Nishimoto, Souki, Takamine,  
Yamashita

Current Referral:

HTH, WAM



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Health**

**H.B. 1890 H.D.1, Making An Appropriation for Health Care Services**

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

**March 14, 2008, 1:15 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department respectfully opposes this measure because it would  
2 adversely impact priorities as set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

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

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

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

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

To: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Friday, March 14, 2008 (1:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 016

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 Ige, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and distinguished Members of the Health 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.



# Life Foundation

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Health  
Friday, March 14, 2008  
1:15p.m. in Room 016

### HB 1890 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH HD 1 CARE SERVICES

FIGHTING AIDS

IN HAWAII

AND THE PACIFIC

Chairman Ige 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.

Paul S. Groesbeck  
Executive Director

Phone: 853-3234  
Email: [pgroesbeck@lifefoundation.org](mailto:pgroesbeck@lifefoundation.org)

677 ALA MOANA BLVD.

SUITE NO. 226

HONOLULU

HAWAII

96813

FAX 808 / 521 1279

PHONE 808 / 521 2437

[www.lifefoundation.org](http://www.lifefoundation.org)

**testimony**

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**From:** DaCoconutWireless [DaCoconutWireless@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2008 9:14 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** raymond@lifefoundation.org  
**Subject:** House BILL HB 1890 HD 1 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

**House BILL HB 1890 HD 1 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Friday, March 14, 2008, 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**Raymond Alejo, RN**

Life Foundation  
677 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 226  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 521-2437

**SENATE BILL HB 1890 HD1 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE**

Aloha Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

***My Name is Raymond Alejo, RN***

Please add the need for medical housing for people diagnosed with AIDS and HIV. We have HIV clients in the hospital that are homeless. Hospitals are pressured to discharge patients without adequate housing plan for continued medical care and recovery.

Hospitals often threaten patients that they will charge them \$500-\$1000 dollars a day if the hospital decides to change the patient's status to ICF and DC with out adequate housing plans done for that patient.

Often the patient has no housing resources and will need time to re-cooperate. But with the threat of being charged \$1000.00 a day, the client is forced to leave the hospital or face being in debt without money, to pay for their hospital stay.

This can be often avoided with appropriate DC planning but at times it is not the case. Patients are often too weak at that point to defend themselves against being charged that

and many have no family to take them.

Please add the need for medical housing for people diagnosed with AIDS and HIV, and fund this important need.

Aloha,

*Raymond Alejo, Nurse Case Manager for Life Foundation*

**House BILL HB 1890 HD1- TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**



# GREGORY HOUSE PROGRAMS

DATE: Friday, March 14, 2008  
TIME: 1:15 PM  
PLACE: State Capitol - Conference Room 016

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

## RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1890, HD1

Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Fukunaga 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. I strongly support passage of HB 1890, HD 1.

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 placing more demands on services. 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 here is still tremendous. Additionally, due to the federal budget for FY '09, just released by the president, funding for housing services under the HUD HOPWA program, for persons with HIV/AIDS, is proposed to be level funded while at the same time three new jurisdictions will be eligible 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. The State of Hawaii will experience, once again, a reduction in funding.

HB 1890, HD1 is of particular importance and has some current urgency because the federal Department of Health & Human Services - HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) issued on February 26, 2008 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 here in Hawaii as well as elsewhere.

Maintenance of funding is needed for the areas addressed in HB 1890, HD 1. Without adequate funding for housing, case management, and support services, it will be more challenging for persons / families living with HIV/AIDS to gain access to primary medical care and other support services. The services funded under HB 1890, HD 1 are critical and essential in providing stability in the lives of persons challenged with living with HIV/AIDS. I urge the committee to pass HB 1890, HD 1. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.

Jonathon Berliner  
Executive Director  
Gregory House Programs

## *Board of Directors*

David Andreoli  
President

Guy Merola  
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Akiko Hayashida  
Secretary

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Joe Bock

Cecile Kendrick

Joe O'Mealy

Gennitt Simons

Les Ueoka

Leighton Yuen

*Executive Director*  
Jonathon Berliner  
[jonb@gregoryhouse.org](mailto:jonb@gregoryhouse.org)

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

**Kanoe Kamaano**

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**From:** Joey Rattner [joe@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2008 7:59 AM  
**To:** HTHInPerson  
**Cc:** DaCoconutWireless; Sen. Will Espero; Sen. Roz Baker; Sen. Carol Fukunaga  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1890 HD1

**Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1890 HD1.**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**DATE:** Friday, March 14, 2008  
**TIME:** 1:15 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Conference Room 016

State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**REPRESENTING**

Joseph B. Rattner; 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 Senator Ige, Senator Fukunaga, and Committee Members,*

**My name is Joseph Rattner and on March 15<sup>th</sup> , 2008, 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 with the obvious sense that the HIV Community in Hawaii was suffering dramatically, I was a tremendously concerned.**

**In 2004 I was blessed with Founding West Oahu Hope For A Cure Foundation, a newly**



**blossoming AIDS Service Organization (ASO) located in Ewa Beach, serving the Leeward and West Side Communities of Oahu or elsewhere Island or State wide in need of Care or Prevention services. I am presently the organization's President and acting Executive Director.**

**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 medications 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.**

**Patients now live longer, but many are unable to return to work due to their health and debilitating side effects of the treatments for HIV/AIDS. 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.**

**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. HB 1890 was finally scheduled for a hearing shortly before the cross over, passing with AMENDMENTS and sent to the Senate. Mahalo to Rep. Marcus Oshiro and his Staff for believing in the necessity of this Bill. I am most grateful for the House Health Committee hearing this measure and passing it unanimously!**

**The HIV Community had 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 HD1!

*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  
91-211 Makaina Place  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
Phone-808-685-6702  
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Email-[jbrhawaii1@aol.com](mailto:jbrhawaii1@aol.com)

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PO Box 2487  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
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Website-[www.wohfac.com](http://www.wohfac.com)

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## Kanoe Kamaano

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**From:** Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq. [jadamsesq@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2008 11:35 PM  
**To:** HTHInPerson  
**Subject:** HB 1890 HD 1 - TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

HB 1890 HD 1 - TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING  
Friday, March 14, 2008, 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

TO:  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair,  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, and  
Committee Members

Hawaii's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget from federal and state resources will reduce funding for some of Hawaii's HIV/AIDS programs. According to the Department of Health STD/AIDS Prevention Branch chief, Peter Whiticar, total funding has been declining for several years, and there will be even less money for HIV programs this coming year.

Important housing, food assistance and dental programs are not adequately funded. Hawaii's AIDS service organizations are already straining to provide adequate services for known cases of HIV. Housing programs have enormous waiting lists. The various food programs are inconsistent, nonexistent, or under-funded. Dental programs are inadequate, often leading to more expensive care. These programs are essential in keeping people healthy and in preventing the spread of the virus.

Hawaii's HB 1890 HD1 is meant to supplement the federal funds received from the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Bill (HR 6143). Please provide adequate funding for those leaving with the burden of HIV/AIDS and to prevent further spread of this disease.

Very truly yours,

Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq.

LAW OFFICES OF JO-ANN M. ADAMS, LLLC  
Seven Waterfront Plaza  
500 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 400  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Telephone: (808) 528-2100  
Facsimile: (808) 952-9706

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**Kanoe Kamanao**

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**From:** DaCoconutWireless [DaCoconutWireless@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2008 1:39 PM  
**To:** HTHInPerson  
**Subject:** House BILL HB 1890 HD 1 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

**House BILL HB 1890 HD 1 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Friday, March 14, 2008, 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

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

**House BILL HB 1890 HD 1  
TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE**

***Aloha Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, and  
Committee Members,***

**My Name is Scott Orton, and I have been living with AIDS for 8 YEARS.** I co-facilitate the Friday HIV Support Group at Life Foundation on Oahu, and have assisted many living with HIV to cope with the many problems associated with the disease.

**Hawaii's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget from federal and state resources will reduce funding** for some of the HIV/AIDS programs here. Total funding has been declining for several years, according to the Department of Health. Peter Whiticar, STD/AIDS Prevention Branch chief, affirmed that there will be even less money for HIV programs this coming year.

**Very important housing, food assistance and dental programs currently do not have enough funding.** All these programs are essential in keeping people healthy who are living with HIV, and in preventing the spread of the virus.

**Are we being penny wise but pound foolish with HIV funding?** Hawaii's HB 1890 HD1 is meant to supplement the federal funds received from the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Bill (HR 6143). This past year, there have been problems in housing, food and dental programs due to lack of funding. So much more could be done, but because of tight budget constraints good programs are now underfunded. Our hope, for a better economic time, won't wait with HIV/AIDS. Waiting on funding will only fuel the spread of HIV, every time that we turn away or put wait lists on important programs.

**HIV numbers are about to skyrocket as all persons with HIV, not just AIDS, under care, will be reported to the State.** Names reporting for HIV will take effect as soon as Gov. Linda Lingle signs on to

the administrative rules change. . It will take several years before we start getting close approximate counts of the number of people living with HIV here in the islands.

**We're also faced with the additional burden of care and support services for the new cases.**

Hawaii's AIDS service organizations are already straining to provide adequate services for known cases of HIV. Housing programs have enormous wait lists. Food programs are inconsistent, non-existent, or under funded. Dental Programs are inadequate, often leading to more expensive care.

**HIV/AIDS isn't over. And it's time to speak up and support this legislation, Testimony in Strong Support,**

Love and Aloha,

Scott Orton, an HIV/AIDS Awareness Advocate

**House BILL HB 1890 HD1- TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Bcc: Dacoconut Wireless Members

Bill No. **HB 1890 HD1**  
Bill title: **Making an Appropriation for Health Care Services**

Committee: Senate COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Chair: Sen. David Ige  
Hearing Date: Friday 14 March 2008  
Hearing Location: Conf Room 016, State Capitol

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

Dear Committee Chair Ige,

I previously submitted testimony to the House **strongly in favor of HB 1890, HD1 Making an Appropriation for Health Care Services.** I wish to restate my support and urge passage of this important measure because it will provide funding for vital services needed by people living with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for the committee.

## testimony

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**From:** Louis Kenui Nartatez [louisnar@hcc.hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2008 1:39 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** House Bill HB 1890 HD1

Conference Room 016, State Capitol

House BILL HB 1890 HD 1 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Louis Kenui Nartatez  
808 699 6174

Friday, March 14, 2008, 1:15 PM.

My name is Louis Kenui Nartatez. Thank you for letting me provide testimony on House Bill HB 1890 HD 1, "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES,"

I have been HIV+ since 1993, and if it wasn't for the health care and services I receive, I wouldn't be alive today. Thank you to the many organizations that help me. For that I am grateful.

There are many people living with this virus, but it doesn't mean we can't enjoy the blessings of being alive as everyone else. It is hard to survive with so many programs and services being cut. I myself need these services, and can't afford these services out of my own pocket. Thank God, I have a disability income, but with the cost of living my disability income isn't enough.

However, more funding is definitely needed to sustain the programs we have now. The AIDS Service Organizations (ASO's) helped me in gaining my health and my life back. I've been helped with life-saving medications. I can see clearly now with the eyeglasses I received last year. And now, I have a place to go twice a week for lunch and pick-up groceries. Also, last but not least, where would I be without a place to live? I receive subsidized housing that goes according to my limited disability income.

These are a few of the areas I get help with involving healthcare related support and services, food, dental, mental health, and housing. Please I urge you to pass House Bill HB 1890 HD 1. Once again, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on this measure.

Mahalo,

Louis Kenui Nartatez

**testimony**

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**From:** DaCoconutWireless [DaCoconutWireless@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2008 1:12 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** House BILL HB 1890 HD 1 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

**House BILL HB 1890 HD 1 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Friday, March 14, 2008, 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**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

**House BILL HB 1890 HD 1  
TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE**

*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**

**House BILL HB 1890 HD1- TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**



**testimony**

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**From:** Lisa Marten [dr.lisa.marten@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2008 7:47 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** HB 1890

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

**To:**                 Senate Committee on Health  
                       Senator David Ige, Chair  
                       Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

**Hearing Date:**     Friday, March 14, 2008     (1:15 pm)

**Hearing Location:** Conference Room 016

**Testimony from:**

**Representing:**

**SUBMITTED FOR WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Dear Committee Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and distinguished Members of the Health Committee:

I am currently conducting an needs assessment on HIV medical care state-wide for the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, in collaboration with the Department of Health. Part of this assessment involves a survey of over 350 HIV-infected people living in our state. About 43% of them were living on a combined household income of less than \$12,000 a year and an additional 30% were living on a combined household income of less that \$25,000 a year. Without programs to help with food and housing, these incomes do not allow them to maintain a stable living situation necessary to adhere to their medication and an adequate diet to maintain their health.

Please support them.

Lisa Marten, Dr.PH  
Hawaii AIDS Clinical Research Program

---  
Lisa Marten, Dr.PH, MPP  
Co-investigator  
Hawaii AIDS Clinical Research Program  
Leahi Hospital, Young Building 5th floor  
3675 Kilauea Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816-2396

ph. (808) 737-2751  
fax (808) 735-7047

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

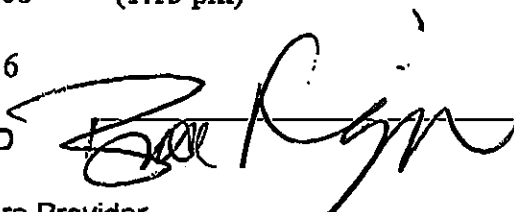
To: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Friday, March 14, 2008 (1:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 016

Testimony from: Bruce Shiramizu, MD

Representing: Community Healthcare Provider



**SUBMITTED FOR WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Dear Committee Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and distinguished Members of the Health Committee:

My name is Bruce Shiramizu and I have been a physician in Hawai'i since 1997. As a pediatrician whose first exposure to children infected with HIV was during my training at the National Institutes of Health, I have witnessed the devastation and treatment successes accompanying the epidemic in this country. For the last 10 years, I have been involved in HIV/AIDS care in Hawaii; and have been fortunate to see the tremendous progress in HIV/AIDS care being provided to patients in Hawaii inflicted with the virus. In my capacity as a physician in the Hawaii, I have had the opportunity to volunteer with service organizations supported by the State of Hawaii such as the Gregory House Programs and the Life Foundation. Through partnerships and collaborations with these organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life for our patients in Hawaii, I am proud that we have such caring and concerned leaders in the community at in the state. I would like to present testimony in favor of HB 1890 (MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES). As a Hawaii resident and physician, I support this bill because it would augment the dwindling financial resources for many of the organizations dedicated to HIV/AIDS healthcare and services in Hawaii. While incredible progress has been achieved in improving the prognosis for HIV-infected patients, the cure for the disease still remains a dream; and thus many residents in Hawaii are still in need of healthcare services. I appreciate the Committee Members' consideration of this very important bill that impacts the whole state, directly and indirectly. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for the committee.

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Testimony from: Debra Ogata-Arakaki, R.N.  
2139 Halekoa Dr., Honolulu, HI 96821

Representing: Nurses caring for people with HIV/AIDS

**SUBMITTED FOR WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Dear Committee Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and distinguished Members of the Health 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 **HB 1890**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for the committee.