

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

LATE  
Testimony

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Health**

**H.B. 1993, Relating to Health**

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

**January 23, 2008, 8:00 a.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The department supports the intent of this measure as long as it does not  
2 replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2008-2009.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to provide care for  
5 uninsured Hawaii residents. The Family Health Services Division currently provides through contract  
6 essentially the same services described in Section 3 of the measure for individuals whose family income  
7 falls within 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. Comprehensive primary care services are procured  
8 statewide on a competitive basis and are delivered by both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

9 The Department recognizes the importance of community-based organizations in providing  
10 access and cost-effective care for Hawaii residents who are uninsured and is committed to facilitating  
11 primary medical, dental, behavioral health, and support services to this population.

12 The base budget for comprehensive primary care services in fiscal year 2009 for primary  
13 medical, behavioral health care (delivered by psychiatrists/psychologists), and dental treatment services  
14 is \$3,289,243. It should be noted that Act 297, SLH 2006, appropriated \$2,000,000 for primary care

1 services on a one-time basis for fiscal year 2007. A portion of the funds were used for pharmaceutical  
2 services in fiscal year 2007, however this activity is not included under this measure.

3 Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

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Healthcare Association  
of Hawaii

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair

Conference Room 329  
Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

LATE  
Testimony

Testimony in support of HB 1993.

I am Coral Andrews, Vice President of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which represents the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Rich Meiers, the President of the Healthcare Association, is attending to business in Washington, D.C. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1993, which appropriates funds for non-profit, community-based health care providers to care for uninsured persons.

Hawaii's community health centers constitute a vital component of Hawaii's health care system. These health centers serve 100,000 of the most needy people in the state, many of whom do not have health care insurance and would otherwise not have access to health care.

The uninsured population in Hawaii has increased in recent years, and so has the need for community health centers. Ten years ago the percentage of uninsured in Hawaii was in the low single digits, and Hawaii was proud of having the lowest proportion of uninsured in the nation. At that time, Hawaii was justifiably known as the "Health State." Since then there has been a troublesome increase in the numbers of uninsured people. Today the uninsured population stands at about 10%, and a number of other states now have smaller populations of uninsured people than Hawaii.

Hawaii's community health centers have proven to be effective in providing comprehensive primary care services to residents of poor and disadvantaged communities. In doing so, these health centers help to keep other components of the health care system viable by, for example, reducing the numbers of patients who go to emergency departments in hospitals and reducing the impact of uncompensated care on other providers. Hawaii needs our community health centers to remain financially viable.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii strongly supports HB 1993.