



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committees on Human Services and Public Housing and Health

H.B. 1993, H.D. 1, Relating to Health

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

March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department has concerns that the appropriation in this bill will adversely
2 impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Section 3 of this measure requests an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2008-2009
4 for the provision of direct health care to the uninsured.

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

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

13 The base budget for comprehensive primary care services in fiscal year 2009 for primary
14 medical, behavioral health care (delivered by psychiatrists/psychologists), and dental treatment services
15 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.

4

LATE TESTIMONY



HB 2913, HD1 RELATING TO KIDNEY DISEASE

House Committee on Health
House Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

March 11, 2008

2:45pm

Conference Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports HB 2913, HD1 and the intent of this initiative and agrees with the need for better and efficient care of chronic diseases in rural communities. With respect to this measure, the initiative will bring more attention to diabetes as the primary cause of the majority of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Dialysis cases in Hawaii. Nearly 60% of all ESRD dialysis cases are directly attributed to diabetes cases in Hawaii. Uncontrolled diabetes is associated with serious health complications, diminished quality of life, and premature death. Major diabetes-related complications that could be prevented or reduced are: cardiovascular disease, Eye disease and blindness, Kidney Disease, Amputations, pregnancy complications and Flu & pneumonia related deaths.

Native Hawaiians have the highest age-adjusted death rates for all causes of death and for heart disease, cancer, diabetes and other diseases of the circulatory system. The data varies slightly but Native Hawaiians continue to show higher rates than other ethnic groups on asthma, diabetes and hypertension. Morbidity rates among Native Hawaiians have almost doubled in the past ten years with the highest age-adjusted diabetes mortality rates, either as an underlying cause or contributing cause when compared with other ethnic groups.

Should we assume the past and present conditions will continue its current progression, than an 'educated guess' about future morbidity of Native Hawaiians is that in 2010, the Native Hawaiian forecast for diabetes will remain higher than the state as a whole.

Nearly 70% of all ESRD dialysis cases among Native Hawaiians are directly attributed to diabetes as a primary cause. In 2002, there were 332 deaths among patients on dialysis in Hawaii with 62.3% of whom having a primary diagnosis of diabetes.

In capacity building and program development, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs will continue to support the efforts of the Native Hawaiian health system on each island to serve the beneficiaries this initiative is intended to reach. The intended scope of this initiative will facilitate a framework to increase outreach to beneficiaries impacted by chronic health issues.

LATE TESTIMONY

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of efforts to advocate for improving Native Hawaiian health.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator David Ige, Chair

Conference Room 016

March 12, 2008 at 2:45 p.m.

Testimony in support of HB 1993 HD 1.

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. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1993 HD 1, 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 HD 1.



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1993 HD1: RELATING TO HEALTH

**SUBMITTED TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING**

HEARING DATE: MARCH 12, 2008

SUBMITTED BY: Richard Bettini, Chief Executive Officer

In 2007 the Health Center provided services to 26,315 individuals through 140,000 encounters. Despite a proactive approach in supporting uninsured patients by assisting them in completing the QUEST application process, there has remained a constant uninsured population of 16% - 19% annually over the past 5 years.

Besides being an economically distressed community, the Waianae Coast has a higher rate of residents who have, or are at-risk for, serious health conditions. According to the 2005 Department of Health Primary Care Needs Assessment Databook, that ranks 28 service areas throughout the state, the Waianae Coast ranks highest on the island of Oahu for: Percentage of the population below 100% and 200% of Federal Poverty Level; Unemployment rate; Households receiving financial aid and food stamps; Infant mortality; Teen births; Adult population with diabetes; Percentage of obese adults; and Chronic heart disease mortality.

During the past 35 years, the Health Center has evolved a unique model of health care delivery that addresses not only an individual's health care needs, but that of the family and the community. The Health Center is a safety net for uninsured, medically underserved patients.

Uninsured funding is extremely important to the Waianae community and for those who are uninsured. Please support this bill.

Mahalo.

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Christina Lee, MD, Medical Director

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health

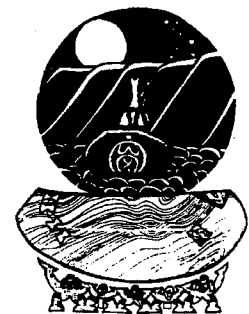
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money for Community Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from using expensive emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. We also offer health education and help patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and do not qualify for QUEST (Medicaid). They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

WHC, which serves a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) in a Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA), is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system providing quality preventive and primary health and social services to our Ko'olaupoko communities targeting Waimanalo's 10,000 residents. We served nearly 4,000 people in 13,000 visits this past year; 30% of our patients have no health insurance. Another 45% have QUEST Medicaid. Not only do we serve the uninsured and underinsured, but also the poor, elderly, at-risk youth, homeless, and many others with financial, cultural, social and other barriers to care. In addition, we serve a large population of Native Hawaiians who have the worst health indicators (hypertension, diabetes, obesity, etc.) compared to other ethnic groups. About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders. While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care and social service needs.

Because 30% of our patients have no insurance, the State Department of Health's Comprehensive Primary Care funds is one of our major sources of funding. With so many growing demands and very few resources, we need to rely on State policy and funding decisions that support us to serve the indigent and those with no insurance. It makes a lot of economic sense to support this bill. If upfront, primary care is provided to Hawaii's people, we will save on the costly Emergency Room and hospitalizations that will, inevitably, be utilized when primary and preventive health care is not sought. I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that WHC provides all our patients. In addition, we are committed to make our community a better place to live by providing not only health services, but also jobs, training, and bringing our community together.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our FQHCs, our patients, and our communities. We urge your support for **HB 1993**, which makes an appropriation for health care for the uninsured. Mahalo and Aloha!



Waimanalo Health Center

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Bay Clinic, Inc.

224 Haili Street, Building B • Hilo, HI 96720 • Tel: (808) 961-4071 • Fax: (808) 961-5167

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Paul Strauss, Chief Executive Officer
Bay Clinic, Inc.

Testimony in Support House Bill 1993, Relating to Health

Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

Bay Clinic, Inc. strongly supports this bill which provides funding to community health centers for the continued provision of vital health care to people who are uninsured. Bay Clinic health centers help keep people from over-utilizing emergency room and hospital services by providing integrated primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care. At Bay Clinic, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and many don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we provide services on a sliding fee discount basis serving all regardless of their ability to pay.

Bay Clinic, Inc. is the *only* federally qualified health center serving East and South Hawaii Island, a geographic service area of over 2000 square miles. This area is home to a growing population of 86,000 people who suffer from high rates of poverty, health disparities and/or a lack of health insurance. In fulfilling our mission to provide primary care to those in need, annually we serve over 14,000 patients providing over 50,000 medical, dental, and behavioral health visits. With the shortage of health care providers in our area, Bay Clinic remains the only option for many, especially those without health insurance. Last year we served over 2,100 uninsured patients by providing over 7,400 visits.

Bay Clinic is proud of the high quality and compassionate care that we provide to all of our patients regardless of their ability to pay. We ask your continued support in providing this vital funding to enable us to sustain and grow the provision of service to this vulnerable population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



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KALIHI-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER
Hale Ho'ola Hou – House of New Life

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Emmanuel Kintu, Chief Executive Officer

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Kalihi-Palama Health Center (KPHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At KPHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Kalihi-Palama Health Center serves one of the neediest neighborhoods in urban Honolulu which has over 20,000 residents. We also care for people – particularly uninsured people – who come from all over the island because we uniquely provide a wide variety of high quality health care with language interpretation services. While Honolulu is not suffering yet from a notable shortage of doctors, there are none who are able to take care of very many people who don't have health insurance.

Because the need for our services is overwhelming, we have grown steadily since opening in 1975 and now have nine clinical sites including a thriving healthcare for the homeless program. However, we still don't come close to meeting all the needs in the communities we serve.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Kalihi-Palama Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



Aloha United Way

KALIHI-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER is a 501(c)3 non-profit, federally qualified, community health care center.

Phone: (808) 553-5038
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MOLOKAI



COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER

Post Office Box 2040
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: L. Jina Lee Lawler, Executive Director, Molokai Community Health Center

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Molokai Community Health Center (MCHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At MCHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

The Molokai Community Health Center opened in 2004 to serve all of the island of Molokai, an island with a big heart but with a high rate of poverty and many health care needs. We are still new and need to expand a lot to meet more of the needs of the whole island for dental and behavioral health services.

On in five of our patients is uninsured and 90% are below 200% of poverty.

As you aware, federally qualified health centers have a proven history of providing high quality comprehensive health care to the uninsured and underinsured, while maximizing resources. Community health center such as Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc. provide an array of services to address the needs of this high risk population. In Molokai, these services include medical, dental, behavioral, social, case management, outreach, and enrollment programs. Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc. greatly depends on our state funding for the uninsured to maintain these comprehensive services.

State reimbursement for uninsured patients, not only provide funding to continue these needed services, but enhance the services given to uninsured patients. In Molokai, these funds are used to help support medication, x-ray, and laboratory services for our uninsured patients. These clinical services often lead to decrease uncompensated emergency room visits and early detection of chronic illness, reducing the over all health care cost in Hawaii.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Molokai Community Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Phone: (808) 553-5038
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MOLOKAI



COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER

Post Office Box 2040
Kounakakai, Hawaii 96748

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Jane Woolsey RN, Director of Nursing , Molokai Community Health Center

**Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health**

Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1993 RELATING TO HEALTH

Description: Appropriates funds to provide care for uninsured Hawaii residents.

March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016

TO:

Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB 3235. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

The Filipino Coalition For Solidarity is in strong support of providing health insurance to the uninsured. We are also very grateful for the role of community health centers that provide the last safety net for those who lack health insurance. Filipinos comprise the largest and hardest hit group by unemployment in the State, especially those who have lost jobs in the service, hotel, and agricultural industries. Immigrants, who are overrepresented in these low paying occupations, are most vulnerable to access needed care. With no wages, or even with unemployment benefits, the exorbitant cost of COBRA to extend their former employer's health care benefits is well beyond their reach.

The lack of health insurance is a significant factor in public health disparities. In Hawai'i, for example, Filipinos have the highest percentage of late stage diagnosis for colorectal, breast, and prostate cancers. Filipinos are the least likely to utilize cancer screening tests, and consequently have among the lowest rates for early stages of cancer diagnosis, which offers the best chances for a cure. Furthermore, Filipinos have the lowest cancer survival rate in the nation among Asian groups.

In addition, a coordinated data collection system is needed to document anecdotal hardship cases that result from a lack of health insurance, in order to inform policy makers, health providers, community leaders, employer groups, unions, and all who are stakeholders of a healthy work force.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony and for your consideration of the dire need to provide health care coverage to Hawai'i's vulnerable groups. Your support of this bill will strengthen the ability of community health centers to deliver services to the uninsured. Please vote yes to its passage.

Respectfully,
Charlene Cuaresma
President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the international nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1993 RELATING TO HEALTH

Description: Appropriates funds to provide care for uninsured Hawaii residents.

March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. | Conference Room 016

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

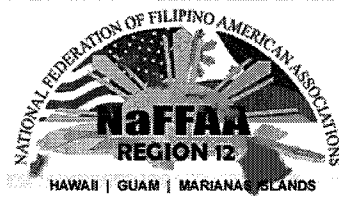
Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

My name is Bea Ramos Razon, president and founder of Nursing Advocates and Mentors Inc. With more than 75 members and supporters, NAMI was established to address the nursing global shortage and its impact in Hawai'i, by providing training and mentoring to foreign medical nurses, in order to pass the U.S. nursing board exams.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill, which appropriates funds to provide care for uninsured Hawaii residents. Filipinos are overrepresented in occupations in the service and agricultural industries, where workers are on call and do not qualify for health insurance benefits, despite working more than 40 hours a week in multiple jobs of this nature. Competing financial priorities for the working poor, many of whom are Filipino immigrants, contribute to the low utilization of cancer screenings and other preventive health services. The cost of health care coverage for the uninsured upfront, will save in the costs of treatment of health conditions, catastrophic illnesses, and loss of work that can be prevented.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this bill. Please help us enact its passage.

Sincerely, Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1993 RELATING TO HEALTH

Description: Appropriates funds to provide care for uninsured Hawaii residents.

March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Amy Agbayani, Assistant Vice Chair
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII (NaFFAA)

My name is Amy Agbayani. NaFFAA is in strong support of this bill. I serve as Assistant Vice Chair of NaFFAA Region XII, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

Measures to address the harmful and costly consequences for people who lack health insurance are of national importance. In Hawai'i, Filipinos bear a disproportionate burden of risk factors that include unemployment from jobs that lack worker equity protections, highest death rates from cardiovascular diseases such as stroke and heart disease, lowest cancer survival rate among Asians in the nation, highest percentage of active hepatitis and tuberculosis, and more. Providing health insurance to those who are uninsured would enable them to access preventive and health screening services that would ameliorate the soaring medical costs and hardships of tertiary health care.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony, and ask for your consideration to enact this very important health care legislation.

Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region XII



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street, Suite 601 Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel (808) 536-8442 Fax (808) 524-0347

To: **Senate Committee on Human Services & Public Housing**

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1993, HD 1 Relating to Health

Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO

March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. Room 016

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association strongly endorses this measure. Hawai'i is fortunate to have a network of 14 independent nonprofit Community Health Centers that serve 100,000 individuals per year at 46 sites on six islands. Community Health Centers (also known as "Federally Qualified Health Centers") are a significant part of the health care safety net, meeting the needs of people who have the most complex mixes of social, economic, and health problems. These include people who are homeless, impoverished, uninsured, enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare, who have special language, cultural, or mental health needs, and residents of rural areas.

Community Health Centers provide primary medical, behavioral health, and dental services, and use a model of care that maximizes resources while addressing the multiple needs of patients and their families. CHCs intensively manage the care of patients chronically ill with diabetes, asthma, and hypertension and bring their conditions under control. They work with families to link them to needed public insurance and other programs. They make sure patients get prescription drugs through free and discounted pharmaceutical programs like the 340B program. By offering accessible alternatives, Community Health Centers serve to ease emergency room overcrowding and are ideal settings for training students of the health professions because they offer valuable and diverse experiences.

Uninsured Funding. The number of uninsured people in Hawai'i is variously estimated to be between 110,000 and 130,000 people. Uninsured people are most likely to be non-elderly low-income working adults who do not qualify for employer-sponsored coverage or public benefits and either cannot get or cannot pay for private health insurance.

Hawai'i's Community Health Centers served nearly 30,000 uninsured individuals in 2006, a notable achievement but one that still leaves at least 80,000 people without appropriate care. In Hawai'i we should be able to ensure access to important basic health care for all residents - it just makes sense to keep people healthy and productive and to reduce uncompensated costs for avoidable emergency room use and hospitalizations. Due to facility, staffing, and funding challenges CHCs cannot currently promise to be the safety-net for all uninsured people in the state; however, restoring the \$2 million appropriation for the uninsured granted in past years' sessions would keep the Community Health Centers from running out of uninsured funding in FY 2009 as will happen during the current year. This requested \$2 million should be added to the \$3.5 million for the uninsured already in the Department of Health budget because \$3.5 million falls short of covering all the health centers' uninsured services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this measure which is one of the most important actions the Legislature can take to support Hawai'i's safety net health care system.



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS: Hawai'i's Essential Health Care Provider

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are a vital part of Hawai'i's health care system. They provide care for 100,000 people who otherwise would not get services at all or would end up in over-burdened emergency rooms (ERs), suffering from preventable conditions that end up requiring hospitalization.

Who: CHCs are the safety net provider for people who, for a variety of reasons, are not cared for by the private healthcare system. CHCs in Hawai'i take care of:

- 30,000 **uninsured residents.**
- 70,500 **people living in poverty.**
- 10,700 **homeless individuals.**
- 38,500 **low-income Medicaid enrollees.**
- 7,200 **elderly Medicare beneficiaries.**
- 27,600 **Native Hawaiians at high risk for chronic conditions and in need of culturally compatible care.**
- 14,400 **people who need language interpreters.**

What: CHCs provide primary medical, dental, and mental health services for all age groups. Equally important, CHCs help patients: get the economic and social assistance they need in order to get well; manage their care; provide health education; and offer interpreters and transportation.

Where: CHCs operate only where there are a lot of people not getting the care they need. These are areas without enough doctors, or communities where there are high rates of poverty, homelessness, and cultural differences.

Why they're important: CHCs are essential to Hawai'i for several reasons:

- A growing number of people — 100,000 in 2006 — rely on them for all their health care needs. As noted above, these are Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents whose challenges are not accommodated by private doctors.
- If CHCs were not there to provide cost-effective preventive care, ERs and Hospitals, already struggling with uncompensated costs and high demands, would be burdened to the point of collapse. ERs and Hospitals were never intended to take on this kind of safety net role.
- CHCs offer access to high quality care for the whole community. As community-based nonprofit corporations, meeting strict federal guidelines for quality of care, they offer stable primary care services in areas where the supply of private doctors doesn't meet population needs.

Economic Benefits: CHCs are also essential to the economic health of their communities. In 2006, Hawai'i's CHCs contributed \$84 million to the State's economy and employed 1,044 people. Further, their presence produced a ripple effect, stimulating \$168 million in economic activity and supporting 1,768 jobs. CHCs improve the health of both the people and the economies in their communities.

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a nonprofit organization, funded largely by the Bureau of Primary Health Care. Our mission is to strengthen systems of care in Hawaii for communities in need. Among the activities of the HPCA are training, technical assistance, and peer networking; marketplace analysis and statewide strategic health planning; the Hawai'i Immigrant Health Initiative; Hawai'i Covering Kids; community development; telehealth and health care technology; and community health worker training. For more information, contact:

Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street, Suite 601 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4718
808-791-7820 (Tel), 808-524-0347 (Fax) • bgiesting@hawaiiipca.net • website: www.hawaiiipca.net



WAIKIKI HEALTH CENTER

REACHING OUT FROM THE HEART OF WAIKIKI.

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Sheila Beckham
Executive Director

Testimony in Support House Bill 1993, Relating to Health

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 2:45 p.m. Agenda, House Conference Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Waikiki Health Center helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. The Center also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy.

- At Waikiki Health Center, many people are uninsured, because they cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. Likewise, these folks cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State. Waikiki Health Center serves residents of Waikiki and East Honolulu but also has an outreach clinic serving gap groups on the North Shore and in Windward Oahu.
- One third of Waikiki Health Center's patients are uninsured.
- Waikiki Health Center serves more than 4,000 homeless individuals annually through over 25,000 encounters.
- Nearly 97% of homeless individuals utilizing Waikiki Health Center's mobile medical vans are uninsured at their first visit.
- 42% of youth participating in the Youth Outreach Project are uninsured at their first visit.

Waikiki Health Center has unique programs targeting uninsured individuals such as the Youth Outreach Project, which offers a drop-in center and street outreach services for homeless, runaway, and street identified youth; and Care-a-Van Health Care for the Homeless program that provides drop-in and mobile primary health care and social services throughout the island of Oahu.

I am proud of the creative, dedicated Waikiki Health Center staff, striving to provide high quality and compassionate care for all our patients. Waikiki Health Center contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together.



But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



*West Hawaii
Community
Health Center*

Ola Ke Ola Waena O Hawai'i Komohana

To: Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

From: Jasmin Kiernan /Director of Nursing
West Hawaii Community Health Center

**Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health**

Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The West Hawaii Community Health Center (WHCHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHCHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

I am the Director of Nursing at WHCHC. Uninsured patients are an unfortunate, daily occurrence. Of the many, I cannot forget the following:

An adult male, chronic alcohol and drug user, came in for treatment of an abscess. He looked and acted stoned and was filthy from head to toe. Our staff took care of his medical needs, and with time, assisted him in joining AA to clean up his act. For a while, Jim was clean, smiling, hopeful, and picking coffee while living at the Manago Hotel in Captain Cook. He also made extra money by picking plumeria blooms and making leis for tourists coming off the cruise ships. I cried when he gave me a plumeria lei as he thanked me for the care he received at the clinic. I never heard from him again until seeing an obituary notice that he arrive DOA at Kona Hospital. Though I'll never know what happened, I sincerely believe our staff made a difference in this man's life.

An 18 year old homeless male came in complaining of fever, weakness, and coughing. Diagnosed with pneumonia, we knew we had to get him off the streets as it had been raining a lot. He had no family and friends, nor a phone to call his mother on the mainland to help. After providing necessary medications, we took that extra step to refer him to local resources so that he could secure a roof over his head, and allowed him to make that phone call to his mother. With careful follow up at our clinic, his pneumonia resolved. I bumped into him on Alii Drive a few weeks after we discharged him. He again expressed his gratitude for our assistance during his time of need.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the West Hawaii Community Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



*West Hawaii
Community
Health Center*

Ola Ke Ola Waena O Hawai'i Komohana

To: Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

From: Mary Louise Arford/LPN
West Hawaii Community Health Center

**Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016**

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The West Hawaii Community Health Center (WHCHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHCHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

I am a nurse here at WHCH. One uninsured patient in particular comes to mind. She had been nursing herself for 2 months because she did not have health insurance. She got to be so ill that she was having a difficult time just getting out of bed. She finally got our phone number from Kona Hospital. She came to us in November of last year with a cough, fever, extreme weakness, and a sore throat. Our physician diagnosed her with acute bronchitis and pneumonia. She was given an injection of antibiotics, as well as oral antibiotic and cough syrup samples. When she returned for a follow up visit, she kept telling us that we saved her life. She feels that without our services, she didn't know what would have happened to her.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the West Hawaii Community Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



*West Hawaii
Community
Health Center*

Ola Ke Ola Waena O Hawai'i Komohana

To: Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

From: Sheryl Hauler/Receptionist
West Hawaii Community Health Center

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The West Hawaii Community Health Center (WHCHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHCHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

I am a receptionist here at WHCHC. Every day, I receive calls from patients and the Kona Community Hospital (KCH) ER staff remarking how wonderful it is to have our facility in Kona. They are so appreciative that we never turn a patient away, whether the patient has insurance or not. Many times, patients have remarked that we have saved their lives! The KCH staff loves the fact that they have a facility to send their patients for follow up care after they've been seen at the ER.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the West Hawaii Community Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

TO: *Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair*

*Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair*

FROM: *David Peters
Chief Executive Officer
Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i*

**Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health**

Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore needed funding to the only community health center on Kaua`i. This funding is needed for Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i to continue to provide exceptional health care to people who are uninsured. Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i serves the entire island of Kauai which has nearly 62,000 residents, many who have a variety of health problems but no health insurance. There is also a shortage of physicians here and none are able to take care of very many people who don't have health insurance.

Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i is not only Kaua`i only Community Health Center but is also the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for Kaua`i County.

We have grown steadily since we started the CHC in 2001 and have two sites in two of the neediest areas of the island: Waimea and Kapa`a. However, we still don't come close to meeting all the needs in the communities we serve.

More than a third of our 6,500 patients in 2007 were uninsured and 85% were below 200% of poverty.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: David D Derauf MD MPH
Executive Director
Kokua Kalihi Valley

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money Hawaii's community health centers need to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. This money will: 1) help keep people out of Hawaii's emergency rooms by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, as well as helping to defray the costs of generic drugs 2) help treat people with chronic diseases whose ongoing care can help avoid expensive complications requiring hospitalization and 3) help stabilize the finances of the community health centers who bear the brunt of outpatient medical care to Hawaii's uninsured population.

Kokua Kalihi Valley opens its doors to all residents of Kalihi Valley, to those with and those without insurance. Almost all of our patients have incomes below 100% of poverty, and many qualify for the Medicaid program, but every year at least a quarter do not qualify for any insurance at all and with such low incomes they can not possibly afford to purchase health insurance on their own. This money will allow us to continue to grow our services to try to meet the rapidly growing needs of this community. It will allow us to provide high quality, low cost services to a group who otherwise will only access health care when things have waited too long.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Jim Kastner

41-829 Kakaina Street

Waimanalo HI 96795

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Jim Kastner, Vice President, Board of Directors, Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area with more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs. About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

ANDREW JAMILA, JR
41-640 Poalima Street
Waimanalo, HI 96734

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Andrew Jamila, Jr., Board of Director and Patient of Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area with more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs.

About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

ANDREW PEREZ

P.O. Box 1801

Kailua, HI 96734

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Andrew Perez - Waimanalo Health Center Employee, Kailua Resident, and Concerned Voter

Testimony in Support

House Bill 1993, Relating to Health

Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money that my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps to keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and by supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services which they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and they don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care, so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area of more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs.

About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all of its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. There are yet more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

DEBORAH SMITH
41-1160 Waikupanaha Street
Waimanalo, HI 96795

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Deborah Smith, Board of Director and Patient of Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area with more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs.

About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

MOANA DeMello
41-1517 Inoa St.
Waimanalo, HI 96795

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Moana De Mello, 2nd Vice-President, Board of Directors and patient of
Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money for Community Health Centers to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. There are too many uninsured people who need help. Let's help people at the home level take care of their illness not at the Hospital Emergency Room. Pass bill HB1993 please, to help the Community Health Centers care for the ill. Hospitals are going into financial cardiac arrest. Please we need help. Mahalo Nui Loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

VERONICA TOMOOKA
45-705 Kuakua Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Veronica Tomooka, Staff Member and Patient of
Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area with more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs.

About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

MARY ANN CROWELL
41-187 Nalu Street
Waimanalo, HI 96734

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Mary Ann Crowell, Board of Director and Patient of
Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1993, Relating to Health

Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.