

May Mizuno

From: Darrell [teruyadt@worldnet.att.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 10:25 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Russel Yamashita; Darrell T Teruya
Subject: Testimony HB2542 Weds Feb 13, 2008 8:00AM

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2542 which would make appropriations for hospital based dentistry in Hawaii County.

For all the reasons stated in the preface of this measure, a community based approach to providing dental services can do much to meet the needs of the underserved as well as a benefit to the local population as a whole. An appropriation to a program such as the one described would help in alleviating access to dental care. It is also possible that outreach and educational programs could originate from a community resource such as this.

All too frequently, neighbor island patients in need of specialized dental care require transportation to Oahu for their needs. This of course translates to postponement of emergent and definitive care, financial hardship, and loss of time for the patient and the patient's family. In addition there may be state borne expenses in the provision of Honolulu based services. This measure seeks to address these concerns.

The Hawaii Dental Association supports any measure which contributes to the betterment of dental health of Hawaii County residents as well as those on all islands.

Mahalo.

Darrell Teruya
President, Hawaii Dental Association



KONA
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
*Providing and Enhancing Accessible Comprehensive
Healthcare Services*

**The House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Josh Green, Chair
Representative John Mizuno, Chair**

Wednesday February 13, 2008
8:00 a.m.
Conference Room #329
Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting the intent of HB 2542 Making an Appropriation for Family Practice Residency Program at Kona Community Hospital
Appropriates \$2,177,500 the 1st year of a 3-year family practice residency program based at Kona Community Hospital on the island of Hawaii

Donald Lewis
West Hawaii Region Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony supporting the intent of House Bill 2542, making an appropriation for a Family Practice Residency Program at Kona Community Hospital.

Kona Community Hospital is a major acute care hospital and Kohala Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) of the West Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, serving approximately 60,000 people on the West side of the island. We appreciate your consideration to establish a family practice residency program to bring healthcare provider support in various hospital inpatient service areas, outpatient or clinic-based services, and benefit the Kona and surrounding communities where available physician shortages exist. The costs of establishing a Family Practice Residency Program are recognized in HB 2542 and an appropriation to support only one year of a three-year family practice residency program to be based at Kona Community Hospital presents somewhat of a concern.

We ask your consideration and direction to build and enhance the establishment of a Family Practice Residency Program at Hilo Medical Center and to expand this program to cover Kona Community Hospital. Such an approach to strengthen and expand the Hilo program to include Kona Community Hospital would offer the desired benefits of bringing additional healthcare practitioners to serve the West Hawaii community and to optimize limited program resources. Thank you for your consideration to the needs of the island of Hawaii.

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