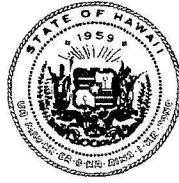


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR
HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 25, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2576, H.D. 1 - MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

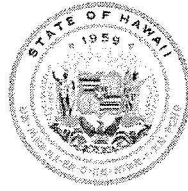
Hearing: Monday, February 25, 2008; 1:45 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: This bill appropriates Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to Hawaii Health Systems Corporation for community-based dental health clinics.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) cannot support this bill as proposed for the following reasons:

1. TANF Federal funds cannot be used for medical services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 608;
2. The Department of Human Services is the sole designated expending agency for TANF for the State pursuant to the State Plan submitted and approved pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §602 (a) (4); and
3. TANF Federal funds can only be transferred to the Social Services Block Grant (Title XX) and Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 25, 2008

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: HB 2576 HD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HAWAII
HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Departments of Health and Human Services (DHS).

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS HB 2576 HD1**. The purpose of the bill is to transfer funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program block grant into the Health Systems Special Fund, for community-based dental health clinics of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) to provide dental services to kupuna, keiki, individuals with DD, and the uninsured by means of the dental residency program of the HHSC community-based dental health clinics.

Dental care has been identified as one of the major health concerns for individuals with DD. They have faced great challenges in accessing dental care services in an appropriate and timely manner. There is a need for dental services statewide and particularly on the Neighbor Islands.

The Council supports community-based dental care services. The provisions of the bill would increase access to dental care and enable the health clinics to increase their capacity and train dental health personnel. It would also allow for best practice strategies and approaches in the treatment of people with DD.

We applaud the Legislature's efforts and commitment to address the dental health care crisis and the oral health needs of the elderly, children, individuals with DD, and the uninsured through this bill.

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
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February 25, 2008

The Council defers to DHS regarding the requirements of the use of TANF funds for the purpose of this bill and HHSC for the necessary appropriation amount.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2576 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Waynette K.Y. Cabral". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator



Hawai'i Primary Care Association
345 Queen Street, Suite 601 Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel (808) 536-8442 Fax (808) 524-0347

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

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2576, HD 1
Making an Appropriation for the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation
Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO
February 25, 2008, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 308

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association strongly supports this measure, which would direct a portion of TANF funding to underwrite any uncompensated costs to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation related to making its operating room available for anesthesia and surgical procedures related to a pediatric dental residency program.

We are proud of the community health center-based dental residency program that is flourishing in Hawai'i. Now the national program with which our dental residency program is affiliated has received a federal grant to support a pediatric specialty dental residency here. There is a keen need for this program in Hawai'i since we have some of the most abysmal dental statistics in the nation. Our State Dental Health Division provides data on oral health that show that decayed or filled primary teeth among children in Hawai'i, ages 5-9, are more than double and baby bottle tooth decay is nearly triple the national rate for those conditions. At the same time, we underperform in meeting children's dental treatment needs and in the application of dental sealants. The proposed pediatric residency program will also be able to address woefully unmet needs for children and adults with developmental disabilities who are greatly underserved by our dental care system.

This bill is important because the pediatric residency will not be able to start until the community health centers identify hospitals that can make their operating rooms available when needed. Access to ORs is necessary because children and individuals with disabilities occasionally need to be sedated and need special care for oral surgery. While the residency program is in discussions with several other hospitals, the needs on Neighbor Islands, which are also served by HHSC, are most acute. We hope that HHSC can accommodate this program if some TANF funds are directed to it to defray any uncompensated costs. Developing this capacity on Neighbor Islands will be very cost-effective since the Medicaid program will no longer have to pay for travel to Honolulu as often for surgical services.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill. We believe that it addresses a very important barrier to the oral health of an important group of Hawai'i residents.