

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
March 12, 2008

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
and
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Chun Oakland and Ige and Members of the Committees:

**SUBJECT: HB 2576 HD2 – 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 HD2**. The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds 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.

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 bill would allow for increased 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.

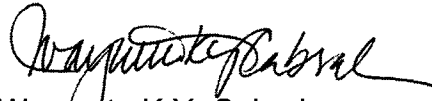
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
The Honorable David Y. Ige
Page 2
March 12, 2008

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 Council defers to HHSC for the necessary appropriation amount.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2576 HD2.

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 Senate Committee on Human Services & Public Housing**
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

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

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2576, HD 2 **Making an Appropriation for the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation**

Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO

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

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association strongly supports this measure, which would appropriate funds to subsidize uncompensated operating room costs for anesthesia and surgical procedures related to a pediatric dental residency program.

For the past five years, a community health center-based general dental residency program has flourished in Hawai'i. This program supports community health center dental programs by providing clinical services delivered by supervised residents, and enhances CHC recruitment and clinical expertise. 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. 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.

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 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. We are asking for an appropriation of \$150,000 that would be used for OR costs that exceed Medicaid payment allowances. We estimate that this amount would provide a \$1,000 subsidy for 150 OR visits.

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.