

May Mizuno

From: Tara Grace [taragrace808@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 7:46 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: ABOLISH CON

KB 2867

**LATE
Testimony**

ABOLISH CON

000006

May Mizuno

From: Mary and John Hoffman [MaryandJohn@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 9:08 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

**LATE
Testimony**

Aloha,

We need to abolish CON before any more people die on Maui because of the lack of a top medical Hospital.

We have had two chances of a new hospital for Maui and both were turned down because the state doesn't want the loss of revenue that Maui Memorial brings to the state.

The Big Island has four hospitals with less population than Maui. Oahu has Fifteen at the latest count. Maui county population is 22% over 50 years of age. How many elderly too ill to be transported to Oahu, must die before CON is abolished?

Several Drs. have left Maui for the Mainland because of the lack of medical support. Next will be the people needing top medical care. Maui Memorial is still using equipment over 30 years old.

Oahu must be pretty proud of that.

Each of you who support retaining CON are directly responsible for these deaths caused by lack of proper medical support. How can you sleep at night?

Sincerely,

Mary E. Hoffman

000007

May Mizuno

From: Lhcaldwell@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 10:38 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2867

**LATE
Testimony**

Maui is in serious trouble! We need the Hawaii State Legislature to support HB2867 to abolish the CON and allow our island to have additional hospitals to serve our citizens.

The ONLY hospital cannot adequately serve the needs of the Maui population and tourists. There are not enough beds or services available. Much of the equipment is outdated. Many of our best doctors are leaving the island to practice elsewhere. Far too many emergencies occur at night when patients cannot be transported to Oahu. Consequently our friends are dying needlessly. Other friends who are aging are leaving the island for the mainland because they fear their lives are at risk. My own husband is talking about leaving. When he had a serious fall during the storm and power outage in December, the MMMC emergency room told us "unless he is dying, don't bring him". That is just not right!

The other islands have more than one hospital. Maui, with the second highest population, has only ONE. Maui citizens and tourist have no choice when it comes to seeking health care. Please do what is right.....support HB2867!!

Mahalo, Linda Caldwell, Kihei, Maui

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000008

May Mizuno

From: bobby mac [bobby.mac@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 8:49 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Abolish the CON

**LATE
Testimony**

Please return the healthcare system to the people and the marketplace.

Bob

Robert T. McDaniel III (R) B
Maui Medical Plaza
808.283.8811 (cell)
866.812.8585 (toll free)
808.876.0861 (fax)
Bobby.Mac@Hawaiiintel.net
www.MauiMedicalPlaza.com

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000009

May Mizuno

From: Emailgto@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 7:35 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Abolish the CON

LATE
Testimony

Please abolish the CON so we can get better healthcare on Maui

Gerald T. Olson
206 Heleuma Place
Kihei, HI 96753
808.874.0081

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000010

From: Jan Shields [jan@SunshineRainbows.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 2:37 PM
To: 'HLTestimony@Capital.Hawaii.gov'
Subject: I support HB2867

LATE
Testimony

I support HB2867.

Please support this bill and abolish the CON.

Maui County has 141,320 (Includes Lana'i, Maui, Moloka'i)

Maui had 2,405,257 million tourists 2006 with an average daily visitor census of 48,854.

Our total daily population is then **190,174**. This doesn't include the 262,453 visitors from Cruise ships that we had in 2006.

- Maui County was Hawaii's fastest growing county from 1990 to 2000 (27% of State growth) – 92% of Maui County residents live on the Island of Maui. Residents 45 to 64 years of age to increase 34%; drive 47% of population increase. Residents 65+ will increase 55% and drive 35% of population increase.
- Statistics show that residents between the ages of 45 to 64 years of age constitute 47% of the population increase occurring on Maui. It is further projected that residents in the 65+ age category will increase 55% and will constitute 35% of total population by the year 2015. Our physician population is aging, too. As physicians leave because of the CON decision against Malulani Hospital, the remaining doctors are aging and many wish to retire. Replacement physicians cannot be persuaded to come here and practice under current conditions. We have many who want to come here if we build a private hospital for them.
- The one hospital on Maui is Maui Memorial Medical Center. It is located in Kahului and is a 231 bed facility which is operated and controlled by Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. At any one day, according to Wes Lo, ~41 of those beds are taken up by patients who have no where else to go. Maui Memorial Medical Center is old and decrepit, with a dangerous mold problem (self-reported), which can only be rectified by knocking it down and rebuilding. The governor has said she will not release funds to remodel MMMC.
- MMMC is borrowing large sums of money: \$130 million. By the very nature of a government hospital, they are also not able to run efficiently so they will not be able to pay it back. The people of the state of Maui will have to pay this loan back. We don't want to spend our tax dollars on government hospitals.
- The occupancy rate of Maui Memorial Hospital runs at 92.9% and often exceeds 100% (according to physicians at the Hawaiian Medical Association public forum meeting)

held at The Dunes at Maui Lani on August 16th, 2007). Industry standards dictate that expansion is called for once a hospital experiences an average annual occupancy rate of 80% (a standard established by the American Health Planning Association).

- Many vital and life-saving services are not available at MMMC:

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Level One ER (we do not even have a level 2 ER)

High Risk Obstetrics

Obstetric Anesthesia

Lactation Services

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Cardiac Intensive Care Unit

Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit

Myocardial Infarction Care Unit

Cardiac Services – open heart surgery, coronary, and stenting.

Advanced Diagnostics

State of the art cancer treatment

Alternative Medicine

Decompression Chamber

Burn Unit

24 hour pharmacy unit at hospital

Food services around the clock for both patients, visitors & staff

Positron Emission Tomography

State of the art CT scanning

Acute dental and oral surgery treatments relating to trauma.

1. Maui is the only major Hawaiian Island without at least two acute care hospitals.

This causes multiple problems, but it causes a glaring problem in terms of emergency transport of patients to ER services. The population of Maui is concentrated in three (3) widely distant geographic areas (Kahului, South Maui and West Maui), with scattered and much smaller residential hubs and clusters in up country Maui. In emergencies, patients cannot reach the one and only 16 bed ER at MMMC in a timely manner. Access by emergency transport is also very difficult and time consuming. **Many lives are lost because the entire population must travel to Kahului for ER care.** Emergency patients, who don't expire because of this logistics problem, seriously deteriorate before they ever reach the ER at MMMC. In addition, the crowded conditions at the island's one and only 16 bed ER means more waiting at a time when waiting can be the difference between life and death.

2. **Even when emergency patients reach Maui Memorial Medical Center, they often discover that the lack of tertiary care services, trauma services, a burn center, and perinatal services requires that they be transported to more advanced patient care facilities on O'ahu.** Unstable patients are difficult to transport and are more likely to have adverse outcomes, up to and including death. Many of these patients experience delayed transport which can last for days. Currently four (4) of every eight (8) trauma patients must be transported off island for care. If you are a serious trauma patient or a cardiac patient, you are going to a hospital on O'ahu.
3. **The need for transport to Oahu is unhealthy for patients' families.** The patient's family cannot travel with patients during transport and are left wondering how their loved one is doing. To join the patient, family members must make travel arrangements, pay for their own hotel rooms (if they can find one), and absorb many additional expenses associated with providing care to a sick or injured loved one. Often children get left behind on Maui, jobs are lost, and financial lives are ruined because of these circumstances.
4. **Maui's shortage of beds is even more acute if other factors are considered.** The above estimates as to increased bed needs do **NOT** take into account the crises that would occur if there were a major health care disaster on Maui. Another major earthquake, an outbreak of an infectious disease like SARS, an airplane crash, or even a cruise ship disaster could quickly shut-down or overwhelm the one and only hospital currently available to Maui County residents. In addition we would not be able to fly the victims to Oahu.

85% of voting residents of Maui favored the new hospital.

Independent polls of Maui residents taken during the debate about the construction of the proposed Malulani Hospital showed **that 85% supported it.*** In spite of this, state lawmakers refused to support the wishes of their constituents.

WE NEED THE CON ABOLISHED SO WE CAN BRING IN PRIVATE COMPANIES SUCH AS QUEENS, KAISER AND KAPIOLANI SO WE CAN ALSO HAVE THE SAME GOOD HEALTHCARE ON MAUI THAT OAHU HAS.

000013

THE CON IS BEING USED TO KEEP THE STATUS QUO IN HAWAII – WITH ALL OF OUR MAUI MEDICAL DOLLARS AND JOBS GOING TO OAHU WITH OUR MAUI PATIENTS.

Aloha,

jan

Jan Shields L.V.T., B.S.N., R.N.C.



Association for Improved Healthcare on Maui

P.O. Box 11420

Lahaina, Maui, HI 96761-6420

<http://www.aihm-maui.org>

Information@AIHM-Maui.org

Cell: 808-298-8886

Fax: 808-667-6655

Jan Shields

From: Jim Foster [jfoster@lava.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 2:43 PM
To: HLTTestimony@Capitol.Hawaii.gov
Subject: I support HB2867

LATE
Testimony

Please support HB2867 and abolish the CON (Certificate of Need). The lack of adequate medical facilities on Maui has been responsible for the death of many people. Continuing to spend government funds and tax dollars that are needed to rebuild our aging infrastructure is unnecessary when private funds are available for new hospitals and clinics. Maui needs a new hospital centrally located such as Kihei and convert Maui Memorial to other uses. If the CON is abolished we will be able to have a small hospital in West Maui residents that now are at least 45 minutes away. Please, please abolish the CON so we can have competition in healthcare and have private hospitals on Maui.

Jim Foster
P.O. Box 10398
Lahaina, HI 96761
Direct Line 808-661-7994
Cell 808-870-5858
Fax 808-667-2957
Email - jfoster@lava.net

000015

Jan Shields

From: Nina Cherry [nina@ninacherry.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 3:35 PM
To: 'Jan Shields'
Subject: I support HB2867

LATE
Testimony

Please support HB2867 and abolish the Certificate of Need.

I want this abolished so we can have more than one hospital on Maui. We want it abolished so we can have competition in healthcare and have private hospitals on Maui. My father is a surgeon in Honolulu and was Chief of Surgery in four hospitals at the same time. We need a hospital in Kihei and we need state of the art equipment. We need to be able to get to the closest hospital in a few minutes to save lives.

Nina Cherry

875-0002 Kihei

nina@ninacherry.com

NINA CHERRY, Realtor (S)

Island Sotheby's International Realty

Wailea, Maui, Hawaii

Mobile: 808.344.3694

Office tel. / fax: 808.875.0002

000016

Jan Shields

Subject: FW: Abolish the Certificate of Need

**LATE
Testimony**

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Davidson [mailto:bdavidson@davdgrp.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 3:27 PM

To: HLTTestimony@Capital.Hawaii.gov

Subject: Abolish the Certificate of Need

We do not need a Certificate of Need. It is an obsolete relic which is getting in the way of providing quality health care choices for patients. Please think of the patients not the people in the "system".

Thank You for your consideration.

Bob Davidson

000017

Jan Shields

From: Cheryl - Maui Aina Appraisal Company [mulliganc002@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 2:24 PM
To: 'Jan Shields'
Subject: FW: I support HB2867

LATE
Testimony

To: 'HLTTestimony@Capital.Hawaii.gov'
Subject: I support HB2867

Please support HB2867 and abolish the CON (Certificate of Need).

WE ARE LOOSING DOCTORS AND RESIDENTS EVERY DAY!!! Please, we need another hospital!

Cheryl Mulligan
PO Box 371
Puunene, HI 96784

000018

Jan Shields

From: Don Sheridan [dybbuk1937@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 3:06 PM
To: HLTTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: Jan Shields
Subject: Fw: I support HB 2867

LATE
Testimony

The Certificate of Need is a total misnomer. The need is here on Maui but the Certificate is on Oahu. The Certificate of Nonsense is a total travesty of justice and an inhuman way to prevent **NEEDED CARE** from being initiated here and on each of the Hawaiian Islands. The totally inhumane Certificate of Need should be called the **Certificate of Need of More Deaths Here On Maui**; that is the job it has done and continues to do. I have watched in its deadly performance 1st hand. Give Health Care a chance on Maui. Abolish this total miscarriage of justice. Allow each of Hawaiian Islands to have its own best purveyors of health care.

Donald Sheridan
245 Kaulani Dr.
Pukalani, HI 96769
Phone: (808)572-8040

000019

February 12, 2008

LATE
Testimony

Re: HB2867

Please support HB2867 and abolish the CON (Certificate of Need) .

The CON is supporting Healthcare Rationing causing a concentration of healthcare services on Oahu and limited services on the outer islands.

ALL Hawaiian residents are taxpayers and every effort should be made to equalize distribution of health care resources. Since it has been well demonstrated that the State of Hawaii chooses to limit healthcare to Maui County by denying a second hospital, it is clear that hoarding of taxpayer dollars are occurring and the CON is supporting this unethical practice.

Susan K Burke
47 Honuhula Street
Kihei, HI 967532

000020

Jan Shields

From: Barcheski [rhawaii@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 6:38 PM
To: Jan Shields
Subject: Fw: We support HB2867

**LATE
Testimony**

----- Original Message -----

From: Barcheski
To: HLTestimony@Capital.Hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 2:27 PM
Subject: We support HB2867

February 12, 2008

To: Hawaii Legislatures

Re: **We support HB2867**

Please support HB2867 and abolish the CON (Certificate of Need).

This is critically important to all of us. Please follow what your constituents are asking for otherwise we see no purpose in having you in office.

Linda and Randall Barcheski
529 Hiilei Pl, Wailuku, HI 96793
rhawaii@hawaii.rr.com

Aloha Legislature:

LATE Testimony

I support HB2867

Please support HB2867 and abolish the CON (Certificate of Need).

Healthcare is the single most important service that a community offers to its citizens. Maui is saddled with a monopoly to deliver healthcare to its citizens which is unacceptable. Whereas delivering healthcare is not a simple matter, and there are many aspects of the situation that need addressing, the first and foremost matter is to foster an environment of free market and competition to let providers come in to provide choices.

This is clearly what the people of Maui want for themselves. The first step – which will lead the way to other healthcare improvements, is to abolish the CON.

Within the last week I learned of a man who, while near death, was told his best chances to get the care he needed was to be moved to Oahu. He declined, as he wants his loved ones near him. This is not an isolated incident. It happens all the time on Neighbor Islands.

Please abolish the CON and let the free market work.

Robin Pilus
40 Ohia Lehua Place
Pukalani, HI 96768
808-573-2381

000022

Jan Shields

From: Racylady101@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 8:06 PM
To: Jan@SunshineRainbows.com
Subject: I support HB2867

**LATE
Testimony**

Jan, please take this with you tomorrow.

To Whom It May Concern:

PLEASE SUPPORT HB2867 AND ABOLISH THE CON (Certificate of Need)

I had a good friend die two years ago because we didn't have sufficient facilities at MMMC. As it was after dark, it was difficult to find a helicopter to take him to Honolulu. He died on the operating table after five hours later, he was transported to Honolulu. I have had to say goodbye to many friends who have feel it necessary to sell their homes on Maui because they had no confidence in Maui's only hospital and felt they needed to move to the Mainland in order to feel comfortable about the care they might receive when needed. These are a few of my thoughts.

I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT HB2867. THE PEOPLE OF MAUI NEED PRIVATE HOSPITALS SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

Carolyn Schaefer
808.244.5866

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000023

Jan Shields

From: lisa dunn [lisadunnhawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 7:29 PM
To: Jan Shields
Subject: I Support HB2867 and Abolish the CON (Certificate of need)

Aloha,

Please support HBO2867 and abolish the CON (Certificate of Need). Maui is a one horse town. We don't have a state of the art hospital, the one we have has no reason to improve. Competition would encourage excellence and make major changes to improve health care.

Major traumas, sick babies and children all need to fly to Oahu for specialized care putting big stresses and hardships on those left home. We are NOT a third world country with inadequate health care. But come to Maui a top tourist destination and you literally take your life into your own hands.

I have seen this personally having worked there for 8 1/2 years. You never knew if the Air Ambulances were flying, if they were already transporting someone else or if the weather was too bad to fly. The helicopters wouldn't fly after dark. Try explaining THAT to a family with a dying loved one.

Now I care for a child who for the past 3 1/2 years ,he and his mom have had to fly to Oahu and spend months at a time away from his sisters and Dad because Maui doesn't have a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Maui doesn't have a lot of things. Neonatal ICU, Pediatric ICU, to name a few....We are not a Full Fledged trauma center....flying our victims to Oahu delays caretime that they don't have to spare.....Lives and

limbs are being lost because of bad politics blocking us to expand vitally needed services here on Maui. Think about that next time your fly here. You are not safe. This is NOT an exaggeration. This is a reality we face every day.

Lives are at stake. This is in your hands. You will never regret doing the RIGHT thing.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Lisa Dunn, RN

Proud AIHM Board Memeber

808-280-1041

LATE
Testimony

Be a better friend, newshound, and know-it-all with Yahoo! Mobile. [Try it now.](#)

Jan Shields

From: Wmfujie@cs.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 7:50 PM
To: Information@AIHM-Maui.org
Subject: I Support HB2867

**LATE
Testimony**

Dear Legislators,

Please Support HB2867 and abolish the CON (Certificate of Need).

Being a retired Police Officer and resident of Kihei, I have long seen the need for another medical facility on Maui. Having worked in Lahaina, Kihei, Central Maui, and on Lanai, I've seen expansion in all those communities over the last couple decades. Kihei in particular has grown substantially - tons of condos, resorts, and hotels, bringing in 100s of thousands visitors annually, not to mention new homes (residents), and more traffic. Increased traffic is evidenced by the County and State spending millions of dollars improving and expanding the highways in and out of Kihei. Recent Emergency Service improvements include a second Fire Station, Police Substation, and another Ambulance station.

The need for service had increased enough for the County and State to realize the need to update these services, the next logical step should be another hospital. Whether privately or Government run, profit or nonprofit, shouldn't matter, people need to be given a choice, and be able to stay on Maui for advanced medical care, instead of having to fly to Oahu for that care. What bothers me is that Malulani would be totally funded and built by private entities, NOT taxpayers, or State/County funds. One would have to be CRAZY not to welcome any facility, not to mention a new hospital being built without expense to the community.

If Sen. Baker and Tony Kreig wants to compare the Hospital system as a public utility, then I have a valid argument, ALLOW US ANOTHER HOSPITAL to follow natural progression of Emergency Services, in Kihei and Lahaina.

Please do the right thing and abolish the CON so we can get a new hospital and better health care.

MAHALO
Waldo Fujie
808-874-6868

000026

I support HB2867

**LATE
Testimony**

Please support HB2867 and abolish the CON (Certificate of Need).

I want it abolished so we can have competition in healthcare and have private hospitals on Maui. I am nearly 65 and fear that when I need a heart specialist or critical care I will not make it to Oahu in time.

Please allow the CON to be abolished so that those that want to take care of us may do so without all this political bickering.

Ron Ross

353 Kualono Place

Wailea, Maui

808-879-4554 HLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

<HLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>

000027

Jan Shields

From: Bob Fondiller [bfondiller@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 4:04 PM
To: HLTTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: I support HB2867

LATE
Testimony

Please support HB2867 and abolish the CON (Certificate of Need).

The CON does not help the citizens of and visitors to Hawaii get better healthcare. It does just the opposite. We need more and better quality healthcare in our beautiful state. Abolishing the CON will be a major step forward in giving us the opportunity for improving the healthcare available to all of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Fondiller
4000 Wailea Alanui Dr., Unit 703
Kihei, HI 96753

000028

Jan Shields

From: Peter G. Medwick [medwickp001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 4:07 PM
To: HLTTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Abolish Con

LAT
Testimon

Aloha, Once more into the breach in this case the "breach of contract" made to the people of Hawaii by all it's employees to serve and protect.

Ladies and gentlemen you are not doing your professed vocation by allowing the Con to continue. We are losing Dr.s , Nureses in tandem with the deterioration of the Maui Memorial Hospital .

Loved what the face looks like however not one bed was added, not one critical care piece of equipment upgraded, no upgrade of procedural guidelines. We are operating as if this is still 1950.

You could have much more impact by losing the CON and letting some private entity or Federal agency participate.

In one of my recent letters I noted that the VA spent approximately \$13,440,000 just for travel expense to fly me to Oahu. That equals for those not aware \$168 round trip from Maui to Oahu times 80 K miles. I know as I use my frequent flyer miles and I have 93 K miles less two trips to see my ailing mother leaves a little over 80K

The VA would love to have a facility here on Maui. Right now I know that there is an effort to request matching funds of \$20 million from the Federal Gov. Well then build a hospital let the Va send their patients there or smarter yet let the VA have a wing or separate building adjacent and service the VA Patients as needed.

It would take according to my math three Veterans such as myself instead of flying at a cost to the VA of \$13.44 million each to build such a facility which is the \$40.032 million needed. The savings by the Va could build the facility or rent it long term and put that money toward paying Dr.s and Nurses enough to stay.

Speaking of staying if this does not occur soon I must sell my home move to California to be near a real Hospital with Dr.s that have graduated within my lifetime with proper educations.

Unfortunately I know so many people from New York to Japan who I have had to say do NOT move here if you expect any type of medical attention. Especially Baby Boomerers who will be in need sooner than later if not already.

Some can afford to bring their own Dr. but many like me are disabled Veterans on limited income and do require timely treatment within days not months.

The other thing that strikes me is the acronym CON. Which leads me to think of con men and con games all illegal all despicable and always there waiting to suck the life out of a person or community.

Appearances do mean a lot and it appears to voters throughout this County and I am sure the others this system is beyond flawed. Which means all legislators by inference who support the Con are con men and women.

So try to remember that your family will need a Hospital with state of the art facilities and personnel. If they live on Maui move them near a Hospital that is not overburdened, understaffed, under-funded and a cash cow for someone other than those needing medical attention.

Hopefully a person whose heart is not of stone will help support the people not the broken promise just like George and all the good old boys would do.

You are first a person, then a family provider, then a legislator not a Con artist. We already have good artists who need a hospital who are not conning you.

Mahalo, Peter G. Medwick USMC/ Disabled, 2747 S. Kihei Rd. Unit J109, Kihei Hi. 96753

ADDRESS IS FOR VERIFICATION ONLY. YOU MAY SEND A REPLY ONLY.

LATE
Testimony

000001



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

888 MILILANI STREET, SUITE 601 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2991



Randy Perreira *Executive Director*
Tel: 808 543-0011 Fax: 808 528-0922

Nora A. Nomura *Deputy Executive Director*
Tel: 808 543-0003 Fax: 808 528-0922

Derek M. Mizuno *Deputy Executive Director*
Tel: 808 543-0055 Fax: 808 523-6879

The Twenty Fourth Legislature-State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Health
Committee on Human Services and Housing

**LATE
Testimony**

Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO
February 13, 2008

**H.B. 2867 - RELATING TO STATE
HEALTH PLANNING**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes H.B. 2867. This bill proposes to repeal the certificate of need process and the law governing the acquisition of hospitals in relation to the state health planning.

The certificate of need process was implemented many years ago to ensure that health care services would be provided and made available to the underprivileged residents, many who reside in remote areas. Without this process, there are no assurances that this population would have access to adequate health care. The process currently obtains comments and recommendations from three groups: (1) the certificate of need panel; (2) the statewide council; and (3) the subarea health planning council. This bill proposes to obtain input solely from the subarea health planning council which may not take into consideration other items that may have been brought up by the other two councils.

The certificate of need process also ensures that there is a real need for certain services and that the facilities will be able to sustain themselves. Repealing the process would have a negative impact on the community.

For the aforementioned reasons, we respectfully encourage that your committee hold this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in opposition to H.B. 2867.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

000030