



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 HB 2888 Relating to Medical Services
Appropriates funds to Kona Hospital for a program to address health care needs in the rural areas of South Kona, Puna, and K'au

Donald Lewis
West Hawaii Region Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony supporting House Bill 2888, which appropriates funds for a mobile medical van program to be based at the Kona Community Hospital and to provide basic medical clinical services to the South Kona, Ka'u and upper Puna areas of the County of Hawaii.

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 including the southern portion of the island of Hawaii. Ka'u Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital of the East Hawaii Region, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

HB 2888 offers a creative solution to address the serious lack of access to appropriate emergency and clinical medical care for residents and visitors in the South Kona, Ka'u and upper Puna areas of the County of Hawaii. HB 2888 however, appropriates funds for purchase of a mobile van, planning and equipment to provide medical care services and requires program and funding contingencies for an additional two years. We support HB2888 if an adequate funding stream follows and funding is provided from grants/foundations etc. to pay for the operational cost of the service. Thank you.

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