



**National Kidney Foundation**  
OF HAWAII

February 6, 2008

Representative Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Conference Room 329  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: H.B. No. 2913 – Relating to Kidney Disease

Dear Chairman Green, Vice Chair Mizuno and members of the House Committee on Health:

I am Glen Hayashida, CEO, National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii (NKFH). We support H.B. 2913, which provides funding for a program to address the dialysis and chronic kidney disease needs of patients in the remote areas of the State of Hawaii. The comprehensive bill is committed to the goals of better prevention, early detection, treatment, and expanded education efforts. It is intended to also be a demonstration project to the federal government.

Worldwide there has been a staggering rise in the number of people with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), largely as a consequence of the aging population and the growing global epidemic of type 2 diabetes. People with CKD suffer a 10-100 times greater incidence of death from cardiovascular disease (CVD) compared to the general population, regardless of age, race or gender.

CKD is a progressive illness that has a silent, symptom-less onset and is characterized by declining kidney function over years. During the later stages of kidney disease, referred to as End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), patients will require dialysis treatment or kidney transplantation. Despite numerous guidelines to screen patients at high risk of CKD, many patients remain unscreened or are poorly characterized with respect to the extent of their kidney disease. Chronic non-communicable diseases (particularly cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes mellitus and chronic kidney disease) have now replaced the communicable diseases as the leading threat to public health and health budgets worldwide.

Deaths claimed by infectious diseases will decline by 3% over the next decade. In marked contrast, chronic diseases - that already account for 72% of the total global burden of disease in people over 30 - will increase by 17%.

The cost of treating these chronic diseases, already 80% of many country's health care budgets, represents a leading threat to public health and healthcare resources worldwide. The only feasible global response to this pending health and socio-economic crisis is chronic disease prevention.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) has recently become a major healthcare priority in the United States due to many factors including:

- the morbidity and mortality rates from people suffering from kidney failure remain high;
- the increasing number of people on dialysis (more than doubling every ten years);
- the high cost of providing dialysis and associated medical treatment (\$65,000 per patient per year);

In Hawaii, there are over 2300 people on dialysis. At \$65,000 per patient per year, we are spending over \$150,000 per year.

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The growth in the number of people with kidney failure is due to the rapid increase in CKD and the progression of kidney disease. Unfortunately, this problem was not being detected due to the under diagnosis and under treatment of CKD in the U.S.

The lack of awareness of the CKD epidemic has led to lost opportunities for aggressive treatment and prevention of complications in patients that are a direct result of or associated with CKD.

The National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii is looking forward to this collaboration with the St. Francis Healthcare System. Our work has just begun and the challenges ahead are great, but through this collaboration and with our existing relationships within our community, we will begin to accelerate the pace in addressing the needs of our aging population along with chronic kidney disease.

The National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii views H.B. 2913 as an opportunity to insure early detection and treatment of CKD to delay the progression of CKD, prevent and treat complications of CKD and produce better healthcare outcomes for the people of Hawaii.

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St. Francis Healthcare System  
of Hawaii

February 6, 2008

FAX To: 586-6051

Email: [HLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
The Honorable John Mizuno, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Health

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Re: **Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 2913, Relating to Chronic Kidney Disease**

Hearing: Friday, February 8, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Testifying: Pamela Witty-Oakland  
Chief Administrator  
St. Francis Residential Care Community

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2913, relating to Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). The Sisters of St. Francis are humbled and proud to have taken care of health care needs for the people of Hawaii since 1883. We are celebrating our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and hope to continue the mission of Blessed Marianne Cope today through this testimony.

St. Francis is developing the "Stay Healthy at Home" program to meet the needs of our expanding older adult population and patients of chronic diseases. The goal is to empower both populations to stay healthy at home for as long as possible. To accomplish this, our concept is to bring health care to the people right where they live; in their communities and in their homes.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a pro-active front in fighting a disease that has a profound effect on 20% of our population. Studies show that 1 person in 7 already have this disease. To make matters worse, another 1 in 7 stand waiting in the wings, with a predisposition to contract CKD. That is over 200,000 of our kama'aina with annual increases affecting the lives of not just the patients, but also their 'ohana. I maintain that if we don't take action today our dreams to have a sustainable future of prosperity for Hawaii's children may be in jeopardy.

PO Box 29380 ■ Honolulu, Hawaii 96820 1780  
Phone: (808) 541 6011

*Ana'ima'a (Jern)*  
Ancient Hawaiian treatment for asthma

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Testimony from  
St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii  
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Within the "Stay Healthy at Home" program St. Francis is unveiling a major health care initiative in the area of chronic kidney disease through a four-year demonstration project to:

1. Address health care access issues for chronic kidney disease patients located in target rural areas of Hawaii based on need and demographics which will include prevention, intervention, surveillance through screenings, patient education, case management and treatment;
2. Develop a research program for chronic kidney disease with the use of an Electronic Health Record system focusing on the development of treatment protocols to stabilize and slow down the progression of this disease with the National Kidney Foundation in conjunction with the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School Of Medicine
3. Develop a proving model for a Modified Home Hemodialysis Program in rural areas to acquire sustainable reimbursements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

We are very confident in the positive effect this program will have on the lives our constituencies. We have put forth the right team to carry out the mission and have raised \$1 mil of seed money to initiate the project: \$500,000 from St. Francis and \$500,000 from the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii.

We appreciate the competing needs within the State of Hawaii, challenge you to support the request to insure a positive and profound impact in the fight for a sustainable quality of life for future generations. Please join us to make this a public/private partnership a reality.

Respectfully,  
ST. FRANCIS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OF HAWAII

  
Sister Agnelle Ching, OSF  
Chief Executive Officer