

BOB JACOBSON

Councilmember

Chair, Environmental Management Committee

Vice-Chair, Finance Committee

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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i

March 10, 2008

Committee on Health

Rep. Josh Greene M.D., Chair

Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

And, Members

Committee on Human Services and Housing

Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

And, Members

Hearing Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

I urge you to pass HCR 131 and HR113 requesting the Director of Health to convene and facilitate a blue ribbon panel to perform a comprehensive inventory of all of Hawaii's acute care and long-term care facilities and to make recommendations for necessary expansion.

I urge the passage of HCR 131 and HR 113.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Jacobson".

Bob Jacobson

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING
Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

Conference Room 329
March 12, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Testimony in support of HCR 131 / HR 113.

I am Coral Andrews, Vice President of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which represents the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 131 / HR 113, which requests the Director of Health to convene a blue ribbon panel to inventory Hawaii's acute care and long term care facilities and to make recommendations for any necessary expansion of these facilities.

In recent months the media have featured a number of articles highlighting the complex and multi-faceted crisis that is plaguing Hawaii's health care system. Payments for health care from Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance are too low. Medical malpractice insurance premiums are too high. Some physicians have already left Hawaii to practice on the mainland where financial conditions are more reasonable. Kahuku Hospital was on the verge of bankruptcy a year ago and about to close its doors before it was acquired by the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC). Meanwhile, HHSC itself is requesting emergency funding during the current session in order to pay its suppliers.

To further complicate matters, the need for health care is expected to grow. For example, a sizeable proportion of Hawaii's population is already over the age of 85 years, and many of them have chronic conditions requiring continuing medical care. The elderly population is expected to increase, as the leading edge of the baby boom generation is now reaching retirement age.

We must ensure that adequate numbers of physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals, as well as health care facilities, are available so that all Hawaii residents continue to have access to quality health care. Ensuring that Hawaii's health care system will continue to have the capacity to serve residents requires advance planning.

These resolutions address a critical aspect of Hawaii's health care system, specifically the adequacy of the inventory of acute care and long term care facilities. We would like to thank the Legislature for bringing attention to this most important topic. The Healthcare Association is named as a panel member. We would be willing to participate in the activities of the panel and provide any information that would add to the collective understanding of the panel.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports HCR 131 / HR 113.

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Testimony of
Frank P. Richardson
Executive Director of Government Relations

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable John Mizuno, Vice Chair
and
House Committee on Human Services & Housing
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

March 12, 2008
11:00 am
Conference Room 329

HCR 131, HR 113 REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO CONVENE AND FACILITATE A BLUE RIBBON PANEL

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR131 and HR 113 requesting the Director of Health to convene and facilitate a Blue Ribbon Panel to perform a comprehensive inventory of all of Hawaii's acute care and long term care facilities and to make recommendations for necessary expansion of such facilities for the State between now and the year 2020.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

Kaiser Permanente supports this measure as a necessary step to addressing the overcrowding in Hawaii's acute care hospitals, the waitlist delays in placing patients into long term care beds, and the extreme lack of sufficient numbers of long term care beds in the State of Hawaii. Kaiser Permanente Hawaii is willing to cooperate and participate in this initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Touching Lives Every Day"

THE HOUSE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair

March 12, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting HCR 131 and HR 113 Requesting the Director of Health to
Convene and Facilitate A Blue Ribbon Panel**

To perform a comprehensive inventory of all of Hawaii's acute care and long-term care facilities
and to make recommendations for necessary expansion of such facilities for the state between
now and the year 2020

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HCR 131 and HR 113 that requests that the Director of Health convene and facilitate a Blue Ribbon Panel to perform a comprehensive inventory of all of Hawaii's acute care and long term care facilities and to make recommendations for necessary expansion of such facilities for the state between now and the year 2020.

As a state authorized public health system of safety-net facilities, HHSC recognizes the importance of meeting community needs and making quality healthcare accessible to all. Hawaii Health Systems Corporation would be pleased to participate in a Blue Ribbon Panel to address expansion of acute and long-term care facilities for Hawaii's future. Thank you.

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www.hhsc.org <<http://www.hhsc.org>>

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TO : HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING
Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs)

SUBJECT: **HCR 131 HR 113 Inventory Long-Term Care Facilities**

HEARING: 11:00 am Wednesday March 12, 2008
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Requests the Director of Health to convene a blue ribbon panel to inventory the acute care and long-term care facilities in Hawaii and make recommendations for needed expansion between now and 2020.

POSITION: PABEA SUPPORTS THE RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN INVENTORY OF ACUTE AND LTC FACILITIES.

RATIONALE:

I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board. I am also a professor of medical sociology at UH-Manoa who has worked with elderly services in Hawaii for more than 20 years.

The rapid expansion of the elderly in Hawaii, and especially elderly in the 85 year and older group, will likely mean a significant increase in the need for long-term care services and facilities. The proposed inventory is an important step in understanding where we currently stand and what planning we must undertake to meet the future needs.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

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March 12, 2008

TO: Chairs Josh Green and Maile Shimabukuro and Members of the House Committees on Health and Human Services & Housing

FROM: Bob Ogawa, President - Hawaii Long Term Care Association

RE: HCR 131, Requesting the Director of Health to convene and facilitate a blue ribbon panel to perform a comprehensive inventory of all of Hawaii's acute care and long term care facilities and to make recommendations for necessary expansion of such facilities for the State between now and the year 2020.

The Hawaii Long Term Care Association (HLTCA) strongly supports HCR 131, except that we would ask that we be added to the list of panel members. The HLTCA's membership comprises twenty-seven (27) facilities, with a total of nearly 3,000 beds (including 1,668 ICF/SNF/subacute). This represents more than half of all non-hospital-based ICF/SNF beds (over one-third of ALL ICF/SNF beds) in the State. Our membership also includes all affiliated Type II adult residential care homes and assisted living facilities and all continuing care retirement communities.

As such, we believe we are unquestionably a major stakeholder with respect to all the issues to be undertaken by the blue ribbon panel. Most significant among those issues is, of course, the hospital waitlist situation. Considering both the significant bed capacity the HLTCA already represents and the willingness of a number of our members to consider targeted expansion and/or development specifically aimed toward caring for medically complex patients, it would seem not just logical but critical that we be contributing partners in this initiative.

With that inclusion, we support this measure and urge its passage. Thank you.

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