

Faith Action for



Community Equity

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March 27, 2008

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

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

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO RECOMMEND TO THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING REFORMS FOR HAWAII'S MEDICAID AND QUEST
PROGRAMS
HCR 73

TESTIFIER: Rev. Bob Nakata, President, FACE
Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, PhD, RN,
Chair, Healthcare Committee, FACE
DATE: Thursday March 27, 2008
TIME: 10:45 a.m.
ROOM: 329

Chair Shimabukuro and Chair Green and members of the committees on Human Services & Housing and Health.

We are Rev. Bob Nakata President of FACE and Clem Ceria-Ulep, the Chair of the FACE Healthcare Committee and we are in support of legislative intervention in the reimbursement by private insurers to our hospitals, physicians and other health care providers.

F.A.C.E., as a faith-based community grassroots organization, believes that all the citizens of the State of Hawaii should have access to quality education, affordable homes, and **quality healthcare**. On February 16, 2008, we held our first healthcare summit to address the crisis in the access and delivery of healthcare to Hawaii's people regardless of their socio-economic status. We are hearing from our members that this crisis is having a profound effect on their families, employers and employees. However, as an organization it became apparent that our membership must first understand the history of healthcare in Hawaii, the root causes of our current crisis and the financial implications.

Hawaii always known as **The Health State** now finds itself in the midst of growing uninsured, limited access to care, inadequate reimbursements to hospitals, physicians and other providers. Also our public and private hospitals are on the brink of financial insolvency and our rural areas are becoming increasingly underserved and there is an ongoing growing loss of our physician population.

F.A.C.E. as a faith-based community grassroots organization believes that the Citizens of the State of Hawaii should all have access to quality education, affordable homes and healthy living **with access to quality healthcare with our hospitals, physicians and other providers being adequately reimbursed**.

While the sources of payment and reimbursement to our healthcare provider networks are complex and numerous, this Resolution does address the specific issue that reimbursement from the Federal Government is diminishing and the Federal Government does not take into account the cost of living, transportation, and numerous other business expenses incurred in the delivery of healthcare to our citizens in the 50th State. FACE also recommends that while the Congressional delegation should be encouraged to work with the CMS on the Medicare and Quest, this resolution should also request that the State Administration concurrently work on the inadequate reimbursement for Medicaid and Quest at the Federal Government administrative level.