



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street, Suite 601 Honolulu, HI 96813

Tel (808) 536-8442 Fax (808) 524-0347

To: **Senate Committee on Human Services & Public Housing**
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2234

Relating to Human Services

Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO

January 31, 2008, 1:30 p.m. agenda, Room 016

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association endorses this measure. It would appropriately remove barriers to eligibility for Med-QUEST and other public benefits. The assets that would be disregarded in determining eligibility would be such items that a prudent person would not discard or spend down in order to get help for the needs of daily life. We believe the most important of these are:

- Ownership of kuleana lands;
- Individual retirement accounts and pension funds;
- Burial plots;
- Household goods and personal effects;
- Work-related equipment;
- The cash-value of life insurance; and
- Automobiles.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.