

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

S.B. 2542 SD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 21, 2008, 9:30a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of Sections 5 and 6 of this
2 measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the
3 Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Section 6 of this measure requests an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2008-2009
5 for direct medical care to the uninsured.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to ensure that the community health center
7 system remains financially viable and stable in the face of the increasing needs of the population of
8 uninsured and underinsured residents by creating a process whereby community health centers and rural
9 health centers will receive supplemental Medicaid payments and seek modifications to their scope of
10 services. This measure also provides an appropriation to adequately pay federally qualified community
11 health centers for services to the uninsured. Since only Sections 5 and 6 will have direct implications
12 upon the Department of Health, it defers to the Department of Human Services regarding all other
13 sections of this measure.

14 The Department of Health recognizes the importance of non-profit community-based
15 organizations in providing access and cost-effective care for Hawaii residents who are uninsured and is

1 committed to providing primary medical, dental, behavioral health care, and ancillary services to this
2 population.

3 Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.