

# SB2890

**Measure Title:**

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

**Report Title:**

AIDS; HIV; Health Care; Appropriation (\$)

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of health for health care and related services to people living with the human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

**Introducer(s):**

ESPERO, Baker, English, Inouye, Menor

**Current Referral:**

HTH, WAM

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**Senate Committee on Health  
Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
1:15p.m. in Room 016**

**SB 2890      MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE  
SERVICES**

Chairman Ige and members of the Committee on Health:

Life Foundation, Hawaii's oldest and largest AIDS organization, would like to be recorded **In support** of this timely bill.

Hawaii can be proud of its early and effective response to the AIDS epidemic. The AIDS system here is a model of how the branches of government, working in close collaboration with the private sector, can successfully confront something as terrifying and stigmatized as AIDS.

As a result, we have a statewide system of HIV counseling/testing, HIV prevention and case management, in addition to programs that provide needed housing and nutritional assistance. We also have a statewide sterile needle exchange program and a university based clinical trials program that was rescued from near oblivion last year by the legislature.

However, we should not honor the good work done and the many people helped by allowing our well-crafted AIDS response system to decline due to lack of resources. AIDS is not over. AIDS caseloads continue to grow and remain high due to the fact that people are not dying in great numbers anymore. At the same time, they are not cured and many are unable to return to work. There will be an end to this – but it is nowhere in sight.

It should be noted that those of us who provide AIDS services have not been content to let the State bear the entire financial burden. We have been able to attract federal funds and we all are involved in unrelenting fundraising efforts. In saying that, I want to reaffirm that the State has a responsibility to fight this disease and assure you that your investment of the people's money in this cause will pay substantial dividends in lives saved and others spared from HIV. Thank you for your consideration.

Paul S. Groesbeck  
Executive Director

Phone: 853-3234  
Email: [pgroesbeck@lifefoundation.org](mailto:pgroesbeck@lifefoundation.org)

**testimony**

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**From:** john@hihaf.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2008 3:08 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Bill SB2890

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair  
Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

**From:** John A. Puig  
Hawaii Island HIV/ AIDS Foundation  
16-204 Melekhahiwa Place, Suite 1  
Kea'au, Hawaii 96749  
(808)982-8802 x124

Hearing being held:

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
**TIME:** 1:15 PM

In favor of Senate Bill SB2890

Dear Sirs and Madame,

My name is John A. Puig I am proud and fortunate enough to work for the Hawaii Island HIV Aids Foundation (HIHAF). The reason for my letter is making an appropriation for health care service under Senate Bill SB2890. I am testifying in favor for the Senate Bill SB2890. I have no facts or figures to give you, having started with Hawaii Island HIV Aids Foundation (HIHAF) in mid-December however I have worked acquiring food from the Hawaii Island Food Bank doing so has allowed me to interact with our HIV/ AIDS clients that come into or office to get the items from our pantry shelves and they have shown me the appreciation either via words or facial expression for this small act. In my observation most of our clients do not have a strong the financial means and this helps a lot. In addition I have heard my co-office workers work on client issues such as housing and health services and the are constantly trying

to pull miracles due to financial cutback, the frustration and mental strain imposed by these cutbacks is worse than dealing with any of the clients that my co-office workers help out.

In closing the additional funding needs to be provided to offset any or all cutbacks, the need is there and the funds are being used for the right reason. I again wish to express my position in favor of Senate Bill SB2890.

Sincerely,

John A. Puig

Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Committee on Health  
Honorable Senator Russell. S. Kokubun, Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
Protection and Affordable Housing

Hearing, Wednesday February 13, 1:15 pm Conference Room 016 State Capital, 415 S.  
Beretania Street, Honolulu

David T. Karl Client and member of the Board of Directors of Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS  
Foundation  
808-965-8667

I am writing in support of SB # 2890

I am both a client of the Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation, (HIHAF) and a member of  
the Board of Directors from East Hawaii.

I used the services of HIHAF to help meet my needs. Currently I use the Food Bank at  
the Kea'au office. I soon will be accessing Ryan White Funds to help with the co-  
payments of my HIV Meds.

Unfortunately as the needs of our clients increase due to many factors including Hawaii's  
high cost of living, funding is being cut, and our client load continues to increase, as more  
people are testing HIV positive and are coming to our Foundation for services.

Just this past year, for our Food Program we have had to cut what the clients can receive  
each week, from two bags of groceries per week down to one bag per week. There are a  
good percentage of our client bases that is poor and use our food program as their main  
source of food.

More and more of our clients also need dental work. Lack of dental treatment especially  
in HIV/AIDS patients makes them more susceptible to other diseases which wear down  
the body's immune system.

Clients on disability also need help with meeting their rental obligations. They cannot  
work, so they must rely on this service to keep them in homes, and not living on the  
streets, jungle or a homeless shelter.

Increasing the funding to HIV/AIDS services will be a great step in assisting our clients  
with not only their living circumstances, but also less stress, which means better health.

Mahalo and Aloha

David T. Karl



# GREGORY HOUSE PROGRAMS

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
 TIME: 1:15 PM  
 PLACE: Conference Room 016  
 State Capitol  
 415 South Beretania Street

## *Board of Directors*

David Andreoli  
 President

Guy Merola  
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Akiko Hayashida  
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Joe Bock

Cecile Kendrick

Joe O'Mealy

Gennitt Simons

Les Ueoka

Leighton Yuen

## **SB 2890 – Making An Appropriation For Health Care Services**

### **RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2890**

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
 Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair; and  
 Committee on Health Members,

My Name is Jon Berliner, and I serve as executive director of Gregory House Programs, Hawaii's only statewide HIV/AIDS housing program.

I strongly urge for passage of SB 2890. Over the years, particularly from 1995 – 2002, state funding for HIV care services was continually reduced through budget restrictions, while at the same time case loads continued to increase. Hawaii will see a reduction in Federal Ryan White CARE Act (now called the Ryan White Modernization Act of 2006) funding due to newly established formulas that penalize smaller states with lower incidence rates. However, the need is still tremendous. Additionally, due to the federal budget for FY '09, just released by the president, funding for housing services for persons with HIV/AIDS is proposed to be level funded, while at the same time three new jurisdictions will be eligible thus meaning that all other jurisdictions will experience funding reductions, under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOPWA – Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program.

Appropriate and adequate maintenance of funding is needed for the areas addressed in SB 2890. Specifically, without housing and support services, it is challenging for persons / families living with HIV/AIDS to access primary medical care. The services funded under SB 2890 are essential in providing stability in the lives of persons challenged with living with HIV/AIDS.

I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 2890. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jonathon Berliner  
 Executive Director

770 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 503, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 808-592-9022 Facsimile 808-592-9049  
 "Housing is Healthcare"

*Executive Director*  
 Jonathon Berliner  
[jonb@gregoryhouse.org](mailto:jonb@gregoryhouse.org)

**testimony**

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**From:** DaCoconutWireless [DaCoconutWireless@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 9:04 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

*Senator David Y. Ige, Chair*  
*Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair*  
**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

***Ray Abelsen***

*General Manager of "Bill's Place" for Save the FoodBasket  
Providing food, meals, and other services for the HIV Positive  
1130 Hassinger St. #2B  
Honolulu, HI 96822*

**· NOTICE OF HEARING**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
**TIME:** 1:15 PM  
**PLACE:** Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE**

***Aloha Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,***

*I am writing to support and to urge your support of SB2890. I am a person living with AIDS, thus making this a very important piece of legislation.*

*February, 2001, "Bill's Place" was created, and I was asked to be the General Manager. Bill's Place is a food distribution organization which allows the clients of The Foodbasket to come by to pick up their weekly supply of groceries, consisting of fresh milk, meat, fish, fresh produce, and some types of canned foods, and dry goods.*

*We are funded by government grants, (Ryan White – Federal), private grants that we have solicited, fundraisers, and private donations. Last year our Ryan White grants were slashed by 80%. Needless to say, this had a very negative effect. Less money to do more with? We have been very innovative, but have run out of ideas.*

*Our cost of goods, are ever increasing. We also have an ever increasing number of clients. With the passage of this bill, we will be able to continue our distribution of the same quality of goods and services to the HIV community..*

2/11/2008

**Thank You,**  
**Ray Abelsen, General Manager of "Bill's Place" for Save the FoodBasket**  
*Providing food, meals, and other services for the HIV Positive*

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**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**



**SB 2890**  
**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION**  
**FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

To: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2009 (1:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 016

Testimony from: Dominic Chow, MD, MPH,  
Director, Clint Spencer Clinic  
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine and Pediatrics, University of  
Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

Representing: Clint Spencer Clinic

Dear Committee Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and distinguished Members of the Health Committee:

As the Director of the Clint Spencer Clinic, our clinic provides clinical care and education to a large number of Hawaii's HIV infected adult and pediatric population. We treat all individuals infected with HIV the same, regardless if they have insurance or not. Antiretroviral medications have dramatically improved the lives of our patients. However, for these life saving medications to be effective, these medications need to be taken regularly in the day. These medications need to be stored appropriately, often requiring refrigeration. In addition, many of these medications need to be taken with food. These expensive medications and therapy will not mean much if these patients are not able to take them appropriately. It is therefore essential that housing and food be supplemented for these infected individuals to achieve productive and healthy lives. The danger is that without food and housing assistance, many of these infected individuals may have worsening of their disease. The cost savings from removing the current food and housing assistance may be offset by the raising health related costs of worsening disease. There will be no savings and the health of our patients will be worse off.

**I strongly support SENATE BILL SB 2890**, which proposes state funding to supplement the federal funds received from the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Bill (HR 6143). This bill would assist in supporting the care of our patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and your thoughtful consideration of this bill which is important to HIV infected individuals living in Hawaii.

91-211 Makaina Place  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
808-685-6702

Representing: Myself; People Living with HIV/AIDS in Hawaii  
West Oahu Hope For A Cure Foundation (President)

Aloha Senator Ige, Senator Fukunaga, Senator Baker, Senator Menor  
and Senator Whalen,

My name is Joseph Rattner and on March 15<sup>th</sup> of this year, it will be fifteen years since I was diagnosed with HIV; the virus that causes AIDS. The fact that I have 'acquired the immunodeficiency syndrome' is by no fault of my own and regardless of the chronic pain or hurt I may incur because of the disease I still continue to go on living a life filled with two loving parents and a wonderful Family.

Five years ago, SB1227 was passed through the Legislature to supplement for Federal Ryan White funding, which was cut, and Patients living with HIV in Hawaii was then able to continue with Clinical Trials at Leahi Hospital and secure the ADAP Medication Program.

Now in 2008, we need to supplement funding again.

Peter Whiticar, the Chief of the STD/HIV Branch of the Department of Health released information from 2004 through 2007. Not only will we be in the red by 5% or 59,000 this year but essential programs and services needed for people living with HIV such as The Food Basket, Gregory House Programs, Life Foundation, West Oahu Hope For A Cure Foundation (WOHFAC), Maui AIDS, Malama Pono and Big Island AIDS are suffering in many different ways.

Dental Services are extremely scarce because there is no money to take care of HIV patients teeth which if treated early and properly could save the State much money and the patients less pain. The only Wellness Center in the State of Hawaii for people living with HIV/AIDS closed last year leaving many who are recovering so WELL that they can work out with no 'home' for their regimen.

The FoodBasket was suffering last year almost closing their doors. Not only do Clients get food, but also they get healthy and appropriate food. Even the Vitamins were cut to only a few kinds.

Early Testing and Treatment is still waiting for approval and as the State waits, the populous of HIV Diagnoses grows. The fact that AIDS is having such an impact on the 50 and up age bracket really makes for a future Nursing Home problem!

The Clinical Trials Program is again in the need of Funding. Gregory House has a wait list of people, which without the passing of this Bill Homelessness will be inevitable with no place further for their Medications or their lives as they know it.

Is that fair? No

How many more people have to die because the State isn't *akamai* enough to make the right move. Please let SB 2890 be the turning point in HIV Care in Hawaii. We sure need it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Much Aloha,

**Joseph B. Rattner, OD, CSAC**  
**Executive Director-WOHFAC**  
91-211 Makaina Place  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
Phone-808-685-6702  
Cell-808-781-3663  
Fax-808-685-6840  
Email-[jbrhawaii1@aol.com](mailto:jbrhawaii1@aol.com)

**West Oahu Hope For A Cure Foundation**  
PO Box 2487  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
Phone-808-685-6702  
Fax-808-685-6840  
Email-[WOHFAC@hotmail.com](mailto:WOHFAC@hotmail.com)  
Website-[westoahuhopeforacure.org](http://westoahuhopeforacure.org)

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The year's hottest artists on the red carpet at the Grammy Awards. [AOL Music takes you there.](#)

**testimony**

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**From:** Lisa Marten [dr.lisa.marten@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 12:56 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB 2890

**Bill No.** SB 2890  
**Bill title:** **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

**To:** Senate Committee on Health  
Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

**Hearing Date:** Wednesday, February 13, 2009 (1:15 pm)

**Hearing Location:** Conference Room 016

**Testimony from:** Lisa Marten, Dr.PH

**Representing:** Hawaii AIDS Clinical Research Program, Self

Dear Committee Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and distinguished Members of the Health Committee:

I strongly support SB 2890.

I am currently conducting a needs assessment of HIV Medical Care in the state of Hawaii. Part of the assessment is a survey of HIV infected people living in Hawaii which asks about various things, including income. It is a convenience sample which in no way represents all HIV infected people in Hawaii, however, it is large enough that the data is meaningful. Of the 327 responses received so far, 40% are living on a combined annual household income of less than \$12,000 and an additional 30% are living on a combined annual household income of less than \$25,000. Without programs which supplement their housing and nutrition they would not be able to afford a stable living arrangement and adequate diet. Through health insurance and a State program called HDAP most people in Hawaii can access life-saving medication (antiretroviral therapy), but it needs to be stored properly and taken on time every day for the rest of their lives. This is difficult in the best of circumstances, but impossible if they do not have a stable living situation. Likewise a balanced diet is necessary to boost the immune system. I do not need to tell anyone who shops here how expensive groceries are in Hawaii!

I have seen some of the programs the would be funded (Save the Food Basket and Gregory House) at work and I was impressed at the quality of services they provide and how they keep their costs and overhead to a minimum. Please support them in their work.

2/11/2008

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Lisa Marten, Dr.PH, MPP  
Co-investigator  
Hawaii AIDS Clinical Research Program  
Leahi Hospital, Young Building 5th floor  
3675 Kilauea Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816-2396

ph. (808) 737-2751  
fax (808) 735-7047

My name is Aaron McMurtray and I am a physician providing care for patients with HIV in Hawaii.

I am concerned about the proposed budget reduction for Fiscal Year 2008 for some of the HIV/AIDS programs in Hawaii. The possibly affected programs provide services that are very beneficial to the general public such as AIDS education and prevention, HIV counseling and testing, AIDS epidemiology studies and surveillance, the Hawaii's AIDS drug assistance program, and housing, food assistance and dental programs. All these programs are essential in providing adequate care to people infected with HIV in the state and in preventing further spread of the virus.

It is my belief that the state of Hawaii will face greater health care costs in the long run if funding for AIDS care continues to be decreased, consequently it is time to urge the governor and Legislature to quickly improve public health funding for HIV/AIDS through legislation.

Sincerely,

Aaron McMurtray, M.D.

Hawaii AIDS Clinical Research Program

University of Hawaii

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

**testimony**

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**From:** DaCoconutWireless [DaCoconutWireless@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 11:42 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

**Scott Orton**, an HIV/AIDS Awareness Advocate  
1130 Hassinger St. #3A  
Honolulu, HI 96822 (808) 383-2016

**· NOTICE OF HEARING**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
**TIME:** 1:15 PM  
**PLACE:** Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE**

Aloha Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My Name is Scott Orton, and I was diagnosed as living with HIV/AIDS on Valentines Day, 2000. And since then I have been very sick, recovered, and have assisted many living with HIV to cope with the many problems associated with the disease.

My concern is that, Hawaii's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget from federal and state resources will reduce funding for some of the HIV/AIDS programs here. Total funding has been declining for several years, according to the Department of Health. Peter Whiticar, STD/AIDS Prevention Branch chief, affirmed that there will be even less money for HIV programs this coming year.

The programs that could be affected include AIDS education and prevention, HIV counseling and testing, AIDS epidemiology studies and surveillance, and Hawaii's AIDS drug assistance program. Also, extremely important housing, food assistance and dental programs currently do not have enough funding. All these programs are essential in keeping people healthy who are living with HIV, and in preventing the spread of the



virus.

Hawaii will pay more in health care costs in the long run if it continues to accept and adopts such ill-timed AIDS funding cuts. It's time to urge the governor and Legislature to quickly restore public health funding for HIV/AIDS through legislation.

Hawaii's Senate Bill SB 2890 is meant to supplement the federal funds received from the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Bill (HR 6143). This past year, there have been problems in housing, food and dental programs due to lack of funding. And so much more could be done, but isn't, because of tight budget constraints.

Names reporting for HIV will take effect as soon as Gov. Linda Lingle signs on to the administrative rules change. Then it will take several years before we start getting close approximate counts of the number of people living with HIV here in the islands. We're also faced with the additional burden of care and support services for new cases. Hawaii's AIDS service organizations are already straining to provide adequate services for known cases of HIV. Housing programs have enormous wait lists. Food programs are inconsistent, non-existent, or under funded. Dental Programs are inadequate, often leading to more expensive care.

HIV/AIDS isn't over. And it's time to speak up and support this legislation.

Love and Aloha,

Scott Orton, an HIV/AIDS Awareness Advocate

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Bcc: Dacoconut Wireless Members

**testimony**

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**From:** James Taylor [jamestay@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2008 3:03 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

**James Taylor**

2029 Ala Wai Blvd., 904

Honolulu, HI 96815

(808) 737-2751

**· NOTICE OF HEARING**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
**TIME:** 1:15 PM  
**PLACE:** Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE**

Aloha Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My Name is **James Taylor**, and I have been working for the University of Hawaii in HIV research for over seven years. HIV was, is and shall continue to be a major issue facing the citizens of the State of Hawaii. I want to point out some issues raised by one of our participants in clinical studies:

*My concern is that, Hawaii's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget from federal and state*

2/11/2008

*resources will reduce funding for some of the HIV/AIDS programs here. Total funding has been declining for several years, according to the Department of Health. Peter Whiticar, STD/AIDS Prevention Branch chief, affirmed that there will be even less money for HIV programs this coming year.*

*The programs that could be affected include AIDS education and prevention, HIV counseling and testing, AIDS epidemiology studies and surveillance, and Hawaii's AIDS drug assistance program. Also, extremely important housing, food assistance and dental programs currently do not have enough funding. All these programs are essential in keeping people healthy who are living with HIV, and in preventing the spread of the virus.*

*Hawaii will pay more in health care costs in the long run if it continues to accept and adopts such ill-timed AIDS funding cuts. It's time to urge the governor and Legislature to quickly restore public health funding for HIV/AIDS through legislation.*

*Hawaii's Senate Bill SB 2890 is meant to supplement the federal funds received from the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Bill (HR 6143). This past year, there have been problems in housing, food and dental programs due to lack of funding. And so much more could be done, but isn't, because of tight budget constraints.*

*Names reporting for HIV will take effect as soon as Gov. Linda Lingle signs on to the administrative rules change. Then it will take several years before we start getting close approximate counts of the number of people living with HIV here in the islands. We're also faced with the additional burden of care and support services for new cases. Hawaii's AIDS service organizations are already straining to provide adequate services for known cases of HIV. Housing programs have enormous wait lists. Food programs are inconsistent, non-existent, or under funded. Dental Programs are inadequate, often leading to more expensive care.*

*HIV/AIDS isn't over. And it's time to speak up and support this legislation.*

*Love and Aloha,*

*(Name Removed to Protect Confidentiality), an HIV/AIDS Awareness Advocate*

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

**Sincerely,**

**James Taylor**

University of Hawaii at Manoa  
3675 Kilauea Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
808-737-2751  
<http://www.hawaii.edu/hacrp/>

2/11/2008

Bill No. **SB 2890**  
Bill title: **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

To: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 (1:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 016

Testimony from: Cris Milne

Representing: Self

Dear Committee Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and distinguished Members of the Health Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 2890.

I see this as a very important bill to help provide care for people who are HIV +. I am a nurse who has worked closely with members of our community who are HIV + for over 13 years. I have found the services of the organizations that are funded by the Ryan White fund to be essential in providing health care and other very important social services.

Thank you for you time in considering this bill. Please fund it.

Cris Milne RNC, NP, MPH  
1351 Humu'ula St.  
Kailua, HI 96734

Bill No. **SB 2890**  
Bill title: **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

To: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 (1:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 016

Testimony from: Debra Ogata-Arakaki  
2139 Halekoa Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96821

Representing: Nurses caring for people with HIV/AIDS

Dear Committee Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and distinguished Members of the Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of SB 2890, (MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES).

My name is Debra Ogata-Arakaki. I was born and raised in Hawaii, and have spent the past 21 years working as an HIV research nurse and coordinator. I began my research career in 1986 at the National Institutes of Health, at a time when AIDS was at its infancy. There were no anti-HIV drugs available at that time. A diagnosis of AIDS was a death sentence. It was only through the tireless efforts of many researchers and nurses, dedicated and willing research participants that new drugs to treat HIV and its many infections were developed. Today, a diagnosis of HIV is no longer an ominous sentence and with proper care and treatment, people living with HIV can maintain healthy, productive lives.

I support this bill because it will help to support programs that have done, and can continue to do, valuable work for the people in Hawaii living with HIV. Programs such as HIV counseling and testing, HIV drug assistance programs, housing and food assistance, AIDS surveillance, and dental assistance are already under-funded. Federal funding for many HIV-related programs has decreased sizably over the past few years. Many programs can't continue to provide the level of services they have been able to provide in the past due to the continued cuts in funding. This bill will help to supplement the federal funds received through the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization Bill and help to maintain these valuable programs.

The state can chose to support the health and welfare of HIV-infected individuals so they may be contributing, productive citizens, or they can turn away and pay for it on the backend, supporting them financially in the hospital once they are ill.

In summary I would like to restate my strong support for passage of **SB 2890**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for the committee.

Bill No. **SB 2890**  
Bill title: **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

To: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2009 (1:15 pm)

Hearing Location: Conference Room 016

Testimony from: Nancy Hanks, RN  
HACRP/Leahi Hospital  
3675 Kilauea Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor. Young Bldg  
Honolulu, HI 96816 (808) 737-2751

Representing: Hawaii AIDS Clinical Research Program

**SENATE BILL SB2890 – TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Dear Committee Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and distinguished Members of the Health Committee:

I am Nancy Hanks, clinical research nurse with the Hawaii AIDS Research Program. I have been with this program 15 years and have watched the tremendous strides science has taken towards the ultimate cure for HIV/AIDS in those years. While it is true, people with HIV/AIDS now have more hope for the future; there is only hope if there is money to assist with the basics of human survival, food, housing, and the staggering cost of medications.

Federal funds continue to dwindle putting an ever increasing burden on HIV/AIDS programs in Hawaii. It is imperative to continue with AIDS education, prevention, surveillance, research, drug assistance programs and services for the HIV infected population, to allow these people to continue to be productive citizens and to prevent the further spread of HIV in Hawaii. It is far more costly to care for an ill person than to prevent that illness in the first place.

Thank you for your past awareness and diligence in supporting HIV/AIDS issues and for your continuing support, we still have a ways to go.

. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2890**. Please support this bill as it comes before you

**testimony**

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**From:** andrew j tabar [andenhi5@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2008 4:36 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 2890

**I urgently support Senate Bill SB 2890 with the following testimony.**

**To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chairman  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chairperson**

**From: Andrew J. Tabar  
2415 Ala Wai Blvd., Apt. 1801  
Honolulu, HI 96815-3409**

**My testimony in support of SB 2890**

Honorable Senators and Committe Members:

Thank you for allowing me to offer my urgent support of SB 2890 at this time.

As a past President of PWA Coalition Hawai'i, a non profit 501 c 3 advocacy organization, and currently a health advocate for chronic and terminally ill individuals living and residing on O'ahu, I am well aware of past, present and future anticipated federal funding cutbacks regarding services to persons living with HIV and AIDS in Hawai'i.

Unfortunately, as you may know, the number of persons living with HIV and AIDS continues to rise on our islands. However, the available funding for said individuals continues to be deficient to cover core needs as determined by a statewide needs assesment and plan of 2006 through 2009 by the Department of Health and the STD/AIDS Prevention Branch.

Housing is a number one concern and funding is lacking to cover the shortfalls for disabled and low income individuals who are living with HIV and AIDS. Comprehensive dental care is a necessity and we find that deep tissue cleanings and root canals may not be covered under existing Medicaid programs offered by the State. Shortfalls are readily apparent in this area. Additionally, the need for funding to cover food assistance to support the basic nutritional needs of low income and terminally ill individuals remains a priority.

Prevention and maintenance of well being and vital health concerns go a long way to forestall more serious health issues for individuals in the future. Now is the time to allow funding to stem further more costly services.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Tabar, Health Advocate

2/12/2008

**testimony**

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**From:** DaCoconutWireless [DaCoconutWireless@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2008 5:08 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** 'Raymond Alejo'  
**Subject:** SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Appropriates funds to the department of health for health care and related services to people living with the human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

**Raymond Alejo**, Nurse Case Manager  
Life Foundation  
677 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 226  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 521-2437

**· NOTICE OF HEARING**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
**TIME:** 1:15 PM  
**PLACE:** Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE**

Aloha Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

*My Name is Raymond Alejo, Nurse Case Manager for the Life Foundation,*

Please add the need for medical housing for people diagnosed with AIDS and HIV. We have HIV clients in the hospital that are homeless. Hospitals are pressured to discharge patients without adequate housing plan for continued medical care and recovery.

Hospitals often threaten patients that they will charge them \$500-\$1000 dollars a day if



the hospital decides to change the patient's status to ICF and DC with out adequate housing plans done for that patient.

Often the patient has no housing resources and will need time to re-cooperate. But with the threat of being charged \$1000.00 a day, the client is forced to leave the hospital or face being in debt without money, to pay for their hospital stay.

This can be often avoided with appropriate DC planning but at times it is not the case. Patients are often too weak at that point to defend themselves against being charged that and many have no family to take them.

Please add the need for medical housing for people diagnosed with AIDS and HIV, and fund this important need.

Aloha,

*Raymond Alejo, Nurse Case Manager for Life Foundation*

**SENATE BILL SB 2890 - TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Health**

**S.B. 2890, Making an Appropriation for Health Care Services**

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

**February 13, 2008, 1:15 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department appreciates the intent of this bill, however we must  
2 respectfully oppose it because it would adversely impact priorities as set forth in the Executive  
3 Supplemental Budget.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill does not specify the amount of funds to be appropriated.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to appropriate an unspecified sum to the  
6 Department in FY 2008-2009. The funds are intended to supplement federal funds for HIV/AIDS  
7 housing, food and dental services, received through the Ryan White CARE Act. For Fiscal Year 2007,  
8 which encompasses April 1, 2007 through 3/31/08, the Hawaii State Department of Health received  
9 \$3.2 million funding through the Ryan White CARE Act.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.