



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

Conference Room 329
March 12, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

Testimony in support of SB 3083 SD 2.

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 SB 3083 SD 2, which makes an emergency appropriation to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC).

HHSC serves as a major component of Hawaii's health care safety net. Its facilities, particularly on the Neighbor Islands, are in many cases the only health care facilities in those regions. HHSC is subsidized by the State. However, continued inadequate payments by Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers that do not cover the actual costs of care have created unanticipated losses.

The emergency appropriation requested in this bill will enable HHSC to pay its vendors, which have been providing goods and services even though they have not been paid in a timely fashion. They deserve to be paid on time. Further, if any of these vendors decides not to do business with HHSC any more, HHSC would be compromised in pursuing its mission.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports SB 3083 SD 2.

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