



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

### House Committee on Health

### SB 3228, Relating to Adjusting the Annual Pensions of Retired Patient Employees at Hansen's Disease Facilities

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

March 18, 2008, 9:15 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this bill that would increase the Kalaupapa  
2 patients' pensions.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Act 213/07 appropriated general funds for adjustments in pensions for Kalaupapa  
4 Settlement patient pensioners (FY 08 - \$4,243 and FY 09 - \$2, 708.) As long as the statutes are  
5 amended to allow these pension adjustments, the pension increases can be paid utilizing the above  
6 appropriated funds for FY 08 and FY 09. As for the out years, since this would be an on-going expense,  
7 it should not be taken out as a non-recurring expense when Budget and Finance gives us our base budget  
8 amounts for the upcoming biennium budget preparation. The \$2,708 should be kept in our budget.  
9 However, we would need to address the difference between the estimated \$5,039 and the \$2,708 for the  
10 FY 10 and beyond.

11 **Purpose and Justification:** The Kalaupapa patient pensioners are not under the State's Employee  
12 Retirement System (ERS) and therefore do not receive the annual cost of living increases as do the other  
13 state pensioners. Separate and specific statutory language is required to increase their pension amounts.  
14 The last increase to the Kalaupapa patients' pensions occurred in 1990. In 2002 a one time lump sum

1 bonus of \$200 was given to all the Kalaupapa patient pensioners who had at least 20 years of service and  
2 was at least 70 years old or older.

3 The long intervals between pension increases for the Kalaupapa pensioners combined with their  
4 advancing age make it imperative that legislation is enacted as soon as possible to get the increased  
5 pensions to the Kalaupapa patients.

6 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.