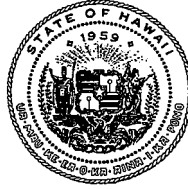


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LAGE

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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**

February 22, 2008, 11:00 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 the \$2,708 should not be taken out as a non-recurring expense when our base budget for the upcoming
8 biennium budget preparation is calculated. However, we would need to address the difference between
9 the estimated \$5,039 and the \$2,708 for FY 10 and beyond.

10 **Purpose and Justification:** The Kalaupapa patient pensioners are not under the State's Employee
11 Retirement System (ERS) and therefore do not receive the annual cost of living increases as do the other
12 state pensioners. Separate and specific statutory language is required to increase their pension amounts.
13 The last increase to the Kalaupapa patients' pensions occurred in 1990. In 2002 a one time lump sum
14 bonus of \$200 was given to all the Kalaupapa patient pensioners who had at least 20 years of service and
15 was at least 70 years old or older.

- 1 The long intervals between pension increases for the Kalaupapa pensioners combined with their
- 2 advancing age make it imperative that legislation is enacted as soon as possible to get the increased
- 3 pensions to the Kalaupapa patients.
- 4 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.