

SB3235

Measure Title:
RELATING TO HEALTH.

Report Title:
Uninsured Health Care (\$)

Description:
Appropriates funds to provide care for uninsured Hawaii residents.

Introducer(s):
IGE

Current Referral:
HTH, WAM



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. 3235, Relating to Health

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

February 6, 2008 2:00 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The department supports the intent of this measure as long as it does not
2 replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2008-2009.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to provide care for
5 uninsured Hawaii residents. The Family Health Services Division currently provides essentially the
6 same services described in Section 3 of the measure for individuals whose family income falls within
7 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. Comprehensive primary care services are procured statewide on
8 a competitive basis and are delivered by both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

9 The Department recognizes the importance of community-based organizations in providing
10 access and cost-effective care for Hawaii residents who are uninsured and is committed to providing
11 primary medical, dental, behavioral health, and support services to this population.

12 The base budget for comprehensive primary care services in fiscal year 2009 for primary
13 medical, behavioral health care (delivered by psychiatrists/psychologists), and dental treatment services
14 is \$3,289,243. It should be noted that Act 297 appropriated \$2,000,000 for primary care services on a

1 one-time basis for fiscal year 2007. A portion of the funds were used for pharmaceutical services in
2 fiscal year 2007, however this activity is not included under this measure.

3 To preserve the intent of the bill and for procurement purposes we recommend the following
4 amendments:

5 Section 2, line 19: striking community-based health-care providers and adding instead federally
6 qualified health centers.

7 Section 3, line 5: adding the phrase “provided further that funds be given to nonprofit, federally
8 qualified health centers.

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

10



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street, Suite 601 Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel (808) 536-8442 Fax (808) 524-0347

To: **Senate Committee on Health**
The Hon. David Ige, Chair
The Hon. Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 3235 Relating to Health

**Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO
2:00 p.m. February 6, 2008. Room 016.**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association strongly endorses this measure. Hawai'i is fortunate to have a network of 14 independent nonprofit Community Health Centers that serve 100,000 individuals per year at 46 sites on six islands. Community Health Centers (also known as "Federally Qualified Health Centers") are a significant part of the health care safety net, meeting the needs of people who have the most complex mixes of social, economic, and health problems. These include people who are homeless, impoverished, uninsured, enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare, who have special language, cultural, or mental health needs, and residents of rural areas.

Community Health Centers provide primary medical, behavioral health, and dental services, and use a model of care that maximizes resources while addressing the multiple needs of patients and their families. CHCs intensively manage the care of patients chronically ill with diabetes, asthma, and hypertension and bring their conditions under control. They work with families to link them to needed public insurance and other programs. They make sure patients get prescription drugs through free and discounted pharmaceutical programs like the 340B program. By offering accessible alternatives, Community Health Centers serve to ease emergency room overcrowding and are ideal settings for training students of the health professions because they offer valuable and diverse experiences.

Uninsured Funding. The number of uninsured people in Hawai'i is variously estimated to be between 110,000 and 130,000 people. Uninsured people are most likely to be non-elderly low-income working adults who do not qualify for employer-sponsored coverage or public benefits and either cannot get or cannot pay for private health insurance.

Hawai'i's Community Health Centers served nearly 30,000 uninsured individuals in 2006, a notable achievement but one that still leaves at least 80,000 people without appropriate care. In Hawai'i we should be able to ensure access to important basic health care for all residents - it just makes sense to keep people healthy and productive and to reduce uncompensated costs for avoidable emergency room use and hospitalizations. Due to facility, staffing, and funding challenges CHCs cannot currently promise to be the safety-net for all uninsured people in the state; however, restoring the \$2 million appropriation for the uninsured granted in past years' sessions would keep the Community Health Centers from running out of uninsured funding in FY 2009 as will happen during the current year. Please note that the \$2 million requested should be added to the \$3.5 million for the uninsured already in the Department of Health budget because \$3.5 million falls short of covering all the health centers' uninsured services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this measure which is one of the most important actions the Legislature can take to support Hawai'i's safety net health care system.



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS:
Hawai'i's Essential Health Care Provider

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are a vital part of Hawai'i's health care system. They provide care for 100,000 people who otherwise would not get services at all or would end up in over-burdened emergency rooms (ERs), suffering from preventable conditions that end up requiring hospitalization.

Who: CHCs are the safety net provider for people who, for a variety of reasons, are not cared for by the private healthcare system. CHCs in Hawaii take care of:

- 30,000 uninsured residents.
- 70,500 people living in poverty.
- 10,700 homeless individuals.
- 38,500 low-income Medicaid enrollees.
- 7,200 elderly Medicare beneficiaries.
- 27,600 Native Hawaiians at high risk for chronic conditions and in need of culturally compatible care.
- 14,400 people who need language interpreters.

What: CHCs provide primary medical, dental, and mental health services for all age groups. Equally important, CHCs help patients: get the economic and social assistance they need in order to get well; manage their care; provide health education; and offer interpreters and transportation.

Where: CHCs operate only where there are a lot of people not getting the care they need. These are areas without enough doctors, or communities where there are high rates of poverty, homelessness, and cultural differences.

Why they're important: CHCs are essential to Hawai'i for several reasons:

- A growing number of people — 100,000 in 2006 — rely on them for all their health care needs. As noted above, these are Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents whose challenges are not accommodated by private doctors.
- If CHCs were not there to provide cost-effective preventive care, ERs and Hospitals, already struggling with uncompensated costs and high demands, would be burdened to the point of collapse. ERs and Hospitals were never intended to take on this kind of safety net role.
- CHCs offer access to high quality care for the whole community. As community-based nonprofit corporations, meeting strict federal guidelines for quality of care, they offer stable primary care services in areas where the supply of private doctors doesn't meet population needs.

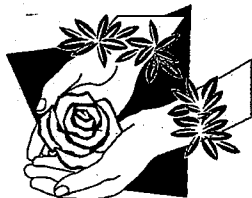
Economic Benefits: CHCs are also essential to the economic health of their communities. In 2006, Hawai'i's CHCs contributed \$84 million to the State's economy and employed 1,044 people. Further, their presence produced a ripple effect, stimulating \$168 million in economic activity and supporting 1,768 jobs. CHCs improve the health of both the people and the economies in their communities.

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a nonprofit organization, funded largely by the Bureau of Primary Health Care. Our mission is to strengthen systems of care in Hawaii for communities in need. Among the activities of the HPCA are training, technical assistance, and peer networking; marketplace analysis and statewide strategic health planning; the Hawai'i Immigrant Health Initiative; Hawai'i Covering Kids; community development; telehealth and health care technology; and community health worker training. For more information, contact:

Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street, Suite 601 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4718
808-791-7820 (Tel), 808-524-0347 (Fax) • bjesting@hawaiiipca.net • website: www.hawaiiipca.net

**COMMUNITY
CLINIC
OF MAUI**



Where Aloha is more than just a word

48 Lono Ave
Kahului, HI 96732
(808) 871-7772
Fax (808) 872-4029

SATELLITE CLINICS

Ka Hale A Ke Ola
Resource Center
670-A Waiale Dr.
Wailuku, HI 96793

Lahaina Comprehensive
Health Center
15 Ipu Amakua Lane
Lahaina, HI 96761

To Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Ige, Chair

**Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health**

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00 p.m. Agenda, Room 016
Submitted by Dana Alonzo-Howeth, Executive Director

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Community Clinic of Maui (CCM) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At CCM, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

The Community Clinic of Maui serves all of the island of Maui except Hana. Maui has a large number of service industry workers who lack insurance, as well as other uninsured people who health problems. There is also a shortage of doctors here and none are able to take care of very many people who don't have health insurance.

The number of uninsured patients we care for continues to increase and, since 2001 we've tripled the number of homeless patients we serve and more than doubled the number who are below poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Community Clinic of Maui provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to car for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

TO: *Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair*

FROM: *David Peters
Chief Executive Officer
Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i*

**Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health**

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. agenda, Senate Conference Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore needed funding to the only community health center on Kaua`i. This funding is needed for Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i to continue to provide exceptional health care to people who are uninsured. Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i serves the entire island of Kauai which has nearly 62,000 residents, many who have a variety of health problems but no health insurance. There is also a shortage of physicians here and none are able to take care of very many people who don't have health insurance.

Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i is not only Kaua`i only Community Health Center but is also the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for Kaua`i County.

We have grown steadily since we started the CHC in 2001 and have two sites in two of the neediest areas of the island: Waimea and Kapa`a. However, we still don't come close to meeting all the needs in the communities we serve.

More than a third of our 6,500 patients in 2007 were uninsured and 85% were below 200% of poverty.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



Bay Clinic, Inc.

224 Haili Street, Building B • Hilo, HI 96720 • Tel: (808) 961-4071 • Fax: (808) 961-5167

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair

Testimony in Support

Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. Agenda, Room 016

Submitted by Paul Strauss, Chief Executive Officer

Bay Clinic, Inc. strongly supports this bill which provides funding to community health centers for the continued provision of vital health care to people who are uninsured. Bay Clinic health centers help keep people from over-utilizing emergency room and hospital services by providing integrated primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care. At Bay Clinic, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and many don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we provide services on a sliding fee discount basis serving all regardless of their ability to pay.

Bay Clinic, Inc. is the *only* federally qualified health center serving East and South Hawaii Island, a geographic service area of over 2000 square miles. This area is home to a growing population of 86,000 people who suffer from high rates of poverty, health disparities and/or a lack of health insurance. In fulfilling our mission to provide primary care to those in need, annually we serve over 14,000 patients providing over 50,000 medical, dental, and behavioral health visits. With the shortage of health care providers in our area, Bay Clinic remains the only option for many, especially those without health insurance. Last year we served over 2,100 uninsured patients by providing over 7,400 visits.

Bay Clinic is proud of the high quality and compassionate care that we provide to all of our patients regardless of their ability to pay. We ask your continued support in providing this vital funding to enable us to sustain and grow the provision of service to this vulnerable population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Phone: (808) 552-5035
Fax: (808) 552-6194

MOLOKAI



COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER

Post Office Box 2840
Kainakohai, Hawaii 96748

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: L. Jina Lee Lawler, Executive Director, Molokai Community Health Center

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. Agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Molokai Community Health Center (MCHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At MCHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

The Molokai Community Health Center opened in 2004 to serve all of the island of Molokai, an island with a big heart but with a high rate of poverty and many health care needs. We are still new and need to expand a lot to meet more of the needs of the whole island for dental and behavioral health services. On in five of our patients is uninsured and 90% are below 200% of poverty.

As you aware, federally qualified health centers have a proven history of providing high quality comprehensive health care to the uninsured and underinsured, while maximizing resources. Community health center such as Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc. provide an array of services to address the needs of this high risk population. In Molokai, these services include medical, dental, behavioral, social, case management, outreach, and enrollment programs. Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc. greatly depends on our state funding for the uninsured to maintain these comprehensive services.

State reimbursement for uninsured patients, not only provide funding to continue these needed services, but enhance the services given to uninsured patients. In Molokai, these funds are used to help support medication, x-ray, and laboratory services for our uninsured patients. These clinical services often lead to decrease uncompensated emergency room visits and early detection of chronic illness, reducing the over all health care cost in Hawaii.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Molokai Community Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Phone: (808) 553-5038
Fax: (808) 553-6194

MOLOKAI



COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER

Post Office Box 2040
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair

From: Jane Woolsey RN, Director of Nursing, Molokai Community Health Center

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Molokai Community Health Center (MCHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At MCHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

The Molokai Community Health Center opened in 2004 to serve all of the island of Molokai, an island with a big heart but with a high rate of poverty and many health care needs. We are still new and need to expand a lot to meet more of the needs of the whole island for dental and behavioral health services.

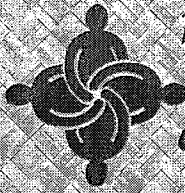
One in five of our patients is uninsured and 90% are below 200% of poverty.

As you aware, federally qualified health centers have a proven history of providing high quality comprehensive health care to the uninsured and underinsured, while maximizing resources. Community health center such as Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc. provide an array of services to address the needs of this high risk population. In Molokai, these services include medical, dental, behavioral, social, case management, outreach, and enrollment programs. Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc. greatly depends on our state funding for the uninsured to maintain these comprehensive services.

State reimbursement for uninsured patients, not only provide funding to continue these needed services, but enhance the services given to uninsured patients. In Molokai, these funds are used to help support medication, x-ray, and laboratory services for our uninsured patients. These clinical services often lead to decrease uncompensated emergency room visits and early detection of chronic illness, reducing the over all health care cost in Hawaii.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Molokai Community Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



West Hawaii
Community
Health Center

Ola Ke Ola Waena O Hawai'i Komohana

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Jasmin Kiernan /Director of Nursing
West Hawaii Community Health Center

Testimony in Support

Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. Agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The West Hawaii Community Health Center (WHCHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHCHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

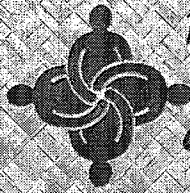
I am the Director of Nursing at WHCHC. Uninsured patients are an unfortunate, daily occurrence. Of the many, I cannot forget the following:

An adult male, chronic alcohol and drug user, came in for treatment of an abscess. He looked and acted stoned and was filthy from head to toe. Our staff took care of his medical needs, and with time, assisted him in joining AA to clean up his act. For a while, Jim was clean, smiling, hopeful, and picking coffee while living at the Manago Hotel in Captain Cook. He also made extra money by picking plumeria blooms and making leis for tourists coming off the cruise ships. I cried when he gave me a plumeria lei as he thanked me for the care he received at the clinic. I never heard from him again until seeing an obituary notice that he arrive DOA at Kona Hospital. Though I'll never know what happened, I sincerely believe our staff made a difference in this man's life.

An 18 year old homeless male came in complaining of fever, weakness, and coughing. Diagnosed with pneumonia, we knew we had to get him off the streets as it had been raining a lot. He had no family and friends, nor a phone to call his mother on the mainland to help. After providing necessary medications, we took that extra step to refer him to local resources so that he could secure a roof over his head, and allowed him to make that phone call to his mother. With careful follow up at our clinic, his pneumonia resolved. I bumped into him on Alii Drive a few weeks after we discharged him. He again expressed his gratitude for our assistance during his time of need.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the West Hawaii Community Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



West Hawaii
Community
Health Center

Ola Ke Ola Waena O Hawai'i Komohana

Date: February 6, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Mary Louise Arford/LPN
West Hawaii Community Health Center

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health

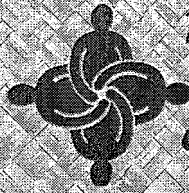
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00 p.m. Agenda, Senate Conference Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The West Hawaii Community Health Center (WHCHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHCHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

I am a nurse here at WHCH. One uninsured patient in particular comes to mind. She had been nursing herself for 2 months because she did not have health insurance. She got to be so ill that she was having a difficult time just getting out of bed. She finally got our phone number from Kona Hospital. She came to us in November of last year with a cough, fever, extreme weakness, and a sore throat. Our physician diagnosed her with acute bronchitis and pneumonia. She was given an injection of antibiotics, as well as oral antibiotic and cough syrup samples. When she returned for a follow up visit, she kept telling us that we saved her life. She feels that without our services, she didn't know what would have happened to her.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the West Hawaii Community Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



*West Hawaii
Community
Health Center*

Ola Ke Ola Waena O Hawaii'i Komohana

Date: February 6, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Sheryl Hauler/Receptionist
West Hawaii Community Health Center

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. Agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The West Hawaii Community Health Center (WHCHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHCHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

I am a receptionist here at WHCHC. Every day, I receive calls from patients and the Kona Community Hospital (KCH) ER staff remarking how wonderful it is to have our facility in Kona. They are so appreciative that we never turn a patient away, whether the patient has insurance or not. Many times, patients have remarked that we have saved their lives! The KCH staff loves the fact that they have a facility to send their patients for follow up care after they've been seen at the ER.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the West Hawaii Community Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

SB 3235 Comm on Health Hearing 2/6 @ 2pm

Dear Committee Members,

I am the Medical Director of the Aloha Medical Mission Free Clinic.

I support the funding of medical and oral health services for the uninsured.

In reviewing this bill I would like to clarify who may be recipients of these funds. Would non-profit, community-based organizations providing medical and oral health at no cost to the uninsured, such as the Aloha Medical Mission Honolulu Free Clinic, qualify for this funding? (the bill references non-profit community-based health providers, which we are).

As pointed out in the bill, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) are one of the most effective and responsive systems of community-based primary care for the uninsured. However, these FQHC's often must charge patients a "sliding scale" fee for some or all of the services provided. This may deter patients from using their services. Further, it is often difficult to maintain adequate staffing at the FQHC's such that patient may wait weeks for an appointment to see a physician or other healthcare provider.

As the medical director of the Aloha Medical Mission Free Clinic I see patients that come to our clinic because they were unable to get an appointment at another community-based or FQHC clinic or did not have any funds for co-pay, medications, etc.

I also am aware that free clinics across the United States are some of the most ideal form of community-based health care as we have experience in providing necessary basic medical and oral health services on a limited budget.

As you are aware, Aloha Medical Mission Honolulu Free Clinic provides free, interim medical and oral health services to homeless, indigent, immigrant, and uninsured residents of Hawaii, including free medications. We rely on volunteer physicians, dentists, nurses, medical and dental assistants, and others to take time away from their families and work, and give freely to help the patients that come to our clinic. We do not bill and accept no fee for service. We rely on grants from private and public organizations to keep our facility operational. We do not have guaranteed funding from year-to-year.

Having some level of funding to ensure basic services will allow us to keep our clinic open and continue to serve the same population as described in this bill.

This bill authorizes payment by the DOH on a "per visit" basis. However, clinics such as ours that have physicians and dentists working on a volunteer basis are precluded from collecting fees for service on a "per patient" basis. We are allowed to receive funding on a capitated or "block" grant basis based on our average number of patient visits.

Should you recognize our clinic as potential recipients of this funding, allowing the Department of Health to provide a block grant or capitated funding rather than on a "fee for service" basis would allow us to maintain our Federal Tort Claims Act status as well.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jerry Allison, MD, MS
Medical Director
Aloha Medical Mission Honolulu Free Clinic
352-7824

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3235:
RELATING TO Uninsured Health Care
SUBMITTED BY: Richard Bettini, Chief Executive Officer
WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center strongly supports SB 3235.

In 2006, the Health Center provided services to 26,936 individuals through 139,210 encounters. Sixty-two percent (62%) of users were below 100% of the federal poverty level; **18% were uninsured**; and Medicaid/QUEST covered 48%. Seventy-six percent (76%) of Health Center's users are Asian/Pacific Islanders, with 51% being Native Hawaiian.

Besides being an economically distressed community, the Waianae Coast has a higher rate of residents who have, or are at-risk for, serious health conditions. According to the 2005 Department of Health Primary Care Needs Assessment Databook, that ranks 28 service areas throughout the state, the Waianae Coast ranks highest on the island of Oahu for:

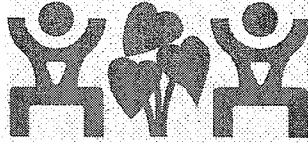
- Percentage of the population below 100% and 200% of Federal Poverty Level
- Unemployment rate
- Households receiving financial aid and food stamps
- Infant mortality
- Teen births
- Adult population with diabetes
- Percentage of obese adults
- Chronic heart disease mortality

The Health Center's mission is "to make available to all residents of the Waianae District complete comprehensive health and related human services". During the past 34 years, the Health Center has evolved a unique model of health care delivery that addresses not only an individual's health care needs, but that of the family and the community.

The Health Center is a safety net for uninsured, medically underserved patients. Uninsured funding is extremely important to the Waianae community and for the Health Center's ability to support its mission.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo.



ADMINISTRATION:
938E AUSTIN LANE
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 845-8578
Fax: (808) 841-1265

CLINIC:
915 NORTH KING ST.
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 848-1438
Fax: (808) 843-7270

KALIHI-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER
Hale Ho'ola Hou – House of New Life

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair

From: Emmanuel Kintu, Chief Executive Officer

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. Agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Kalihi-Palama Health Center (KPHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At KPHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Kalihi-Palama Health Center serves one of the neediest neighborhoods in urban Honolulu which has over 20,000 residents. We also care for people – particularly uninsured people – who come from all over the island because we uniquely provide a wide variety of high quality health care with language interpretation services. While Honolulu is not suffering yet from a notable shortage of doctors, there are none who are able to take care of very many people who don't have health insurance.

Because the need for our services is overwhelming, we have grown steadily since opening in 1975 and now have nine clinical sites including a thriving healthcare for the homeless program. However, we still don't come close to meeting all the needs in the communities we serve.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Kalihi-Palama Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



Aloha United Way

KALIHI-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER is a 501(c)3 non-profit, federally qualified, community health care center.

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. agenda, Room 016

Submitted by David D. Derauf, MD MPH, Executive Director, Kokua Kalihi Valley

I strongly support this bill which will restore money Hawaii's community health centers need to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. This money will: 1) help keep people out of Hawaii's emergency rooms by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, as well as helping to defray the costs of generic drugs 2) help treat people with chronic diseases whose ongoing care can help avoid expensive complications requiring hospitalization and 3) help stabilize the finances of the community health centers who bear the brunt of outpatient medical care to Hawaii's uninsured population.

Kokua Kalihi Valley opens its doors to all residents of Kalihi Valley, to those with and those without insurance. Almost all of our patients have incomes below 100% of poverty, and many qualify for the Medicaid program, but every year at least a quarter do not qualify for any insurance at all and with such low incomes they can not possibly afford to purchase health insurance on their own. This money will allow us to continue to grow our services to try to meet the rapidly growing needs of this community. It will allow us to provide high quality, low cost services to a group who otherwise will only access health care when things have waited too long.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Philip H. Kinnicutt
341 Iliaina Street
Kailua, Oahu, HI 96734-1807
808-254-4534
LEAFISHING@AOL.COM

Date: February 6, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Phil Kinnicutt, Board Member, Waikiki Health Center

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. Agenda, Senate Conference Room 016

I strongly support this bill, which will restore money to Hawaii's community health centers so that they may continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured.

I serve on the board of directors of the Waikiki Health Center. Our center helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At Waikiki Health Center, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

More than 2/3rds of Waikiki Health Center's patients are uninsured. This is because Waikiki Health Center specializes in caring for low-income people who are not likely to get either public or private insurance, including the homeless and adults rather than families.

Waikiki Health Center serves more than 2,000 homeless individuals annually.

Waikiki Health Center serves residents of Waikiki and East Honolulu but also has outreach clinics serving gap groups on the North Shore and in Windward Oahu.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that Waikiki Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



WAIKIKI HEALTH CENTER

REACHING OUT FROM THE HEART OF WAIKIKI.

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Sheila Beckham
Executive Director

Testimony in Support

Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. Agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Waikiki Health Center helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. The Center also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy.

- At Waikiki Health Center, many people are uninsured, because they cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. Likewise, these folks cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State. Waikiki Health Center serves residents of Waikiki and East Honolulu but also has an outreach clinic serving gap groups on the North Shore and in Windward Oahu.
- One third of Waikiki Health Center's patients are uninsured.
- Waikiki Health Center serves more than 4,000 homeless individuals annually through over 25,000 encounters.
- Nearly 97% of homeless individuals utilizing Waikiki Health Center's mobile medical vans are uninsured at their first visit.
- 42% of youth participating in the Youth Outreach Project are uninsured at their first visit.

Waikiki Health Center has unique programs targeting uninsured individuals such as the Youth Outreach Project, which offers a drop-in center and street outreach services for homeless, runaway, and street identified youth; and Care-a-Van Health Care for the Homeless program that provides drop-in and mobile primary health care and social services throughout the island of Oahu.

I am proud of the creative, dedicated Waikiki Health Center staff, striving to provide high quality and compassionate care for all our patients. Waikiki Health Center contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Jim Kastner

41-829 Kakaina Street

Waimanalo HI 96795

Date: February 6, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Jim Kastner, Vice President, Board of Directors, Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support

Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area with more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs. About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Moana DeMello
41-1517 Inoa St.
Waimanalo, HI 96795

Date: February 6, 2008

To: House Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Moana De Mello, 2nd Vice-President, Board of Directors and patient of
Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. Agenda, Senate Conference Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money for Community Health Centers to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. There are too many uninsured people who need help. Let's help people at the home level take care of their illness not at the Hospital Emergency Room. Pass bill HB1993 please, to help the Community Health Centers care for the ill. Hospitals are going into financial cardiac arrest. Please we need help. Mahalo Nui Loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

MARY ANN CROWELL
41-187 Nalu Street
Waimanalo, HI 96734

Date: February 6, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair [in the Senate]

From: Mary Ann Crowell, Board of Director and Patient of
Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area with more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs.

About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

ANDREW JAMILA, JR
41-640 Poalima Street
Waimanalo, HI 96734

Testimony for SB 3235, Wed 2/6 2:00 p.m. agenda, Room 016

Date: January 25, 2008

To: House/Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable Josh Green, MD, Chair
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair

From: Andrew Jamila, Jr., Board of Director and Patient of Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
Senate/House Bill _____, Relating to Health

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area with more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs.

About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

DEBORAH SMITH
41-1160 Waikupanaha Street
Waimanalo, HI 96795

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Deborah Smith, Board of Director and Patient of Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area with more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs.

About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: May Akamine, RN, MS, Executive Director

**Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health**

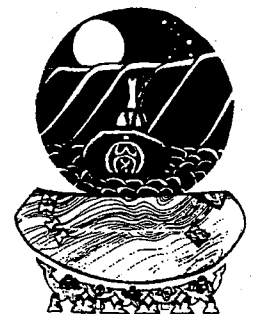
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. Agenda, Senate Conference Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money for Community Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from using expensive emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. We also offer health education and help patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and do not qualify for QUEST (Medicaid). They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

WHC, which serves a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) in a Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA), is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system providing quality preventive and primary health and social services to our Ko'olaupoko communities targeting Waimanalo's 10,000 residents. We served nearly 4,000 people in 13,000 visits this past year; 30% of our patients have no health insurance. Another 45% have QUEST Medicaid. Not only do we serve the uninsured and underinsured, but also the poor, elderly, at-risk youth, homeless, and many others with financial, cultural, social and other barriers to care. In addition, we serve a large population of Native Hawaiians who have the worst health indicators (hypertension, diabetes, obesity, etc.) compared to other ethnic groups. About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders. While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care and social service needs.

Because 30% of our patients have no insurance, the State Department of Health's Comprehensive Primary Care funds is one of our major sources of funding. With so many growing demands and very few resources, we need to rely on State policy and funding decisions that support us to serve the indigent and those with no insurance. It makes a lot of economic sense to support this bill. If upfront, primary care is provided to Hawaii's people, we will save on the costly Emergency Room and hospitalizations that will, inevitably, be utilized when primary and preventive health care is not sought. I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that WHC provides all our patients. In addition, we are committed to make our community a better place to live by providing not only health services, but also jobs, training, and bringing our community together.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our FQHCs, our patients, and our communities. We urge your support for **SB3235**, which makes an appropriation for health care for the uninsured. Mahalo and Aloha!



Waimanalo Health Center

Ph. (808) 259-7948

Fax: (808) 259-6249

21-1347 Kalaniana'ole Hwy

www.waimanalo-hc.org

Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

To: Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Christina Lee, MD, Medical Director

**Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health**

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money for Community Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from using expensive emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. We also offer health education and help patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and do not qualify for QUEST (Medicaid). They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

WHC, which serves a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) in a Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA), is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system providing quality preventive and primary health and social services to our Ko'olaupoko communities targeting Waimanalo's 10,000 residents. We served nearly 4,000 people in 13,000 visits this past year; 30% of our patients have no health insurance. Another 45% have QUEST Medicaid. Not only do we serve the uninsured and underinsured, but also the poor, elderly, at-risk youth, homeless, and many others with financial, cultural, social and other barriers to care. In addition, we serve a large population of Native Hawaiians who have the worst health indicators (hypertension, diabetes, obesity, etc.) compared to other ethnic groups. About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders. While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care and social service needs.

Because 30% of our patients have no insurance, the State Department of Health's Comprehensive Primary Care funds is one of our major sources of funding. With so many growing demands and very few resources, we need to rely on State policy and funding decisions that support us to serve the indigent and those with no insurance. It makes a lot of economic sense to support this bill. If upfront, primary care is provided to Hawaii's people, we will save on the costly Emergency Room and hospitalizations that will, inevitably, be utilized when primary and preventive health care is not sought. I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that WHC provides all our patients. In addition, we are committed to make our community a better place to live by providing not only health services, but also jobs, training, and bringing our community together.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our FQHCs, our patients, and our communities. We urge your support for **HB 1993**, which makes an appropriation for health care for the uninsured. Mahalo and Aloha!



Waimanalo Health Center

Ph. (808) 259-7948
www.waimanalohe.org

Fax: (808) 259-6449
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

41-1347 Kalamiana'ole Hwy

VERONICA TOMOOKA
45-705 Kuakua Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Date: February 6, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Ige, Chair

From: Veronica Tomooka, Staff Member and Patient of
Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
Senate Bill 3235, Relating to Health
Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 2:00p.m. Agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area with more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs.

About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.