



HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

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TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2008 SESSION

To: Senate Committee on Health
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

From: Gary L. Smith, President
Hawaii Disability Rights Center

Re: SCR 34

Hearing: Monday, March 24, 2008, 1:45 PM
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Members of the Committee on Health:

Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Taxation:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting SCR 34.

I am Gary L. Smith, President of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, formerly known as the Protection and Advocacy Agency of Hawaii (P&A). As you may know, we are the agency mandated by federal law and designated by Executive Order to protect and advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of Hawaii's estimated 180,000 people with disabilities.

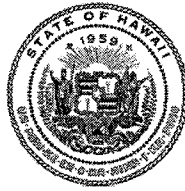
We previously supported SCR 35 because it contained a wealth of recommendations from the Maui Health Initiative Task force to address the needs of community based services for individuals with disabilities. In particular, many of the proposals dealt with issues of capacity in the community for housing and long term care services. In our experience, these are pressing needs which will over time, become even more critical. The problem is compounded on the neighbor islands which face an even greater lack of capacity than does Oahu. The recommendations of the Task force relating to tax credits for health care providers, facilities and services are certainly worthy of further examination. For those reason, we also support SCR 34, which requests the Tax Department to study these proposals and provide a briefing to the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this Concurrent Resolution.



LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION

TESTIMONY REGARDING SCR 34/SR 15

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION TO REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE ON IMPLEMENTING THE TAX INCENTIVE RECOMMENDATION
OF THE MAUI HEALTH INITIATIVE TASK FORCE TO ENCOURAGE THE
FORMATION OF AN ADEQUATE MEDICAL SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE TO
CARE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MAUI.**

*****WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY*****

TESTIFIER: KURT KAWAFUCHI, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION (OR DESIGNEE)

DATE: MARCH 24, 2008

TIME: 1:45PM

ROOM: 224

The Department understands the importance of reporting to the Legislature on the implementation and fiscal implications of the Maui Health Initiative task force's recommendations for adequate medical services infrastructure on Maui.

However, without additional resources specifically provided to assist with this request, the Department is concerned that it may not be able to adequately comply with this request.