

Larry Geller  
Honolulu, HI 96817

HB1371  
HTH/HMS  
Thursday March 19, 2009  
1:45 p.m.  
Room 016

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

March 19, 2009

**Re: HB1371— Relating to Health Care**

**In Support**

If properly applied, federal stimulus funds made available to Hawaii can assist us in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable of all ages, from seniors to children.

I would like to add my voice along with the testimony of other organizations and individuals in support of this bill. I think everyone hopes that these funds are allocated and expended so that the intent of the Legislature and of the federal government in providing this assistance is achieved.

While the federal government has emphasized construction projects as economic stimulus, it is also important to maintain services that are not involved in infrastructure improvement. The amount of funding made available to non-profits and to social services should be maximized as a social and moral value.

Aside from directly benefiting the people of Hawaii through badly needed social services, the money spent in this way remains in the economy and circulates quickly to others. Little or nothing is sent out of state. As the economy continues to falter, we should look upon retaining as many stimulus dollars in-state as we can.

Accordingly, I ask that you keep our seniors, children, those with disabilities and the most needy in mind, and pass this bill so that it may become law.

  
Larry Geller

To HMSTestimony and the Honorable Senator Hoover, Representatives Tokioka and Morita,

I am writing in support of HB1371. This is an important bill that will help Hawaii's people who are uninsured and without a regular healthcare provider. The bill has no money attached to it at present. It is necessary that funding is attached to support the Community Health Centers. Tobacco funds need to be used to help support HB1371. These funds need to be earmarked for the Community Health Center.

As the economy worsens, the number of Hawaii uninsured will rise. Hospitals are suffering as well and care is not cost effective, as it is given when the person is seriously ill,. The CHC will help the residents of Kauai to ensure their access to healthcare and prevention care. As a resident of Kauai, this is a very necessary measure because of provider shortages and the cost of seeking specialist care. Health center also provide enabling care, behavioral health care and dental care at lower cost. The elimination or lack of support of these services will seriously jeopardize the health of Hawaii's working poor, as the majority of the uninsured work full and part-time jobs.

·Please support the worthwhile services of our Community Health Centers by supporting HB1371

Mahalo for your time  
Faye Newfield  
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