



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Conference Room 329
April 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Testimony in support of HR 118 / HCR 147.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HR 118 / HCR 147, requesting Congress to increase the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for Hawaii.

Even before the current economic crisis began, health care providers in Hawaii were suffering from low payments generally, and especially Medicaid payments that were not sufficient to cover the actual costs of care. The economic crisis affects providers because more people will qualify for Medicaid and more people will be uninsured.

In asking for an increase in Hawaii's FMAP, HR 118 / HCR 147 can improve the financial status of Hawaii's health care infrastructure. An increase in Hawaii's FMAP will enable more people to be enrolled in Medicaid, and it will also enable payments to providers to be increased.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports HR 118 / HCR 147.

Faith Action for



Community Equity

Gamaliel Foundation Affiliate

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April 6, 2009

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THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

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DATE: Monday, April 06, 2009
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HR 118/HCR 147
REQUESTING AN INCREASE IN THE FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE
FOR HAWAII

Chairs Mizuno and Yamane and members of these committees:

We are Rev. Bob Nakata, President of FACE and Rev. Sam Domingo, Chair of the FACE Healthcare Committee and we are in support of these resolutions. FACE is an interfaith organization with membership including 26 churches, temples, unions and civic organizations and has been active in Hawaii for 12 years.

We at FACE have identified access to healthcare as our top priority. FACE understands that inadequate reimbursement rates are one of the major issues that impact our access to care. Our state's healthcare system has imploded and the biggest problem is the state's dreadfully inadequate reimbursement system for physicians who treat Medicaid and Quest-eligible patients. A December 2006 legislative research report clearly established the pressing need for action, detailing the huge gap between the actual costs of providing care compared to the state and federal government commitment.

We at FACE stand behind you in pressing our congressional delegation to legislatively increase the federal medical assistance percentage for Hawaii.