

LATE

**Testimony on  
House Concurrent Resolution 223  
April 3, 2009; 10:30AM**

Requesting the Auditor to conduct a Comparative Financial and Management audit of the Department of Health's Community Mental Health Center and Wai'anae's Independently operated Community Mental Health Center

Aloha Members of the Committee:

As a concerned citizen and a resident of Waianae, I fully support the request for an auditor to conduct a Comparative Financial and Management assessment of the Department of Health's Community Mental Health Center and Wai'anae's Independently operated Community Mental Health Center – Hale Na'au Pono (HNP)

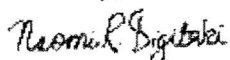
HNP is the first community mental health center (CMHC) in Hawai'i to be nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). In January 1995, Hale Na'au Pono went through its first national accreditation survey by CARF for case management and outpatient programs and received the maximum three year accreditation. In April 2007, Hale Na'au Pono received its fifth consecutive three year accreditation from CARF; continuing our accreditation through 2010.

Since HNP's first CARF accreditation, the services accredited have increased to include: ACT, Case Management/Service Coordination: Integrated AOD/MH, Case Management/Service Coordination: Mental Health Adults, Case Management/Service Coordination: Children & Adolescents, Case Management/Service Coordination: Mental Health Psychosocial Rehabilitation Adults, Community-Based Rehabilitation: Adults, Out-of-Home Treatment: Family Services Children and Adolescents, Outpatient Treatment: Integrated AOD/MH Adults, Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health Adults, Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health Children & Adolescents, & Community Services: Respite Services.

HCR 223 calls for a comparative financial and management audit between the DOH's system of community mental health centers and Hale Na'au Pono. Allowing the Department of Health to conduct the comparative study would be unjust and would unquestionably represent conflict of interest. Nor would it be fitting to involve the State Council on Mental Health in this study for that council is merely advisory to the Department of Health and under the administration of the DOH.

Given HNP's proven experience as a model of an independent, community control CMHC, it would only be equitable and appropriate that the legislature support HR 223 to determine the best options to meet the needs of Hawaii residents.

Sincerely,



Naomi R. Digitaki  
Waianae Coast Resident  
87-252 Hookele Street  
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 02, 2009 9:05 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** morelli@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR223 on 4/3/2009 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 4/3/2009 10:30:00 AM HCR223

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Paula Morelli  
Organization: Individual  
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Phone: 3735708  
E-mail: [morelli@hawaii.edu](mailto:morelli@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 4/2/2009

**Comments:**

Honorable Health Committee Chair Ryan Yamanae and Vice-Chair Scott Nishimoto: This is a humble request for approval of a fair and unbiased audit examination of Hale Na`au Pono, a respected and effective Waianae community mental health service provider to severe and chronic mentally ill individuals for over 30 years.

LATE

**TESTIMONY  
IN SUPPORT OF  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 223**

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL AND  
MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S COMMUNITY MENTAL  
HEALTH CENTER AND WAI'ANAE'S INDEPENDANTLY OPERATED COMMUNITIY  
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER.

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO, VICE CHAIR  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

ALOHA CHAIR YAMANE, VICE CHAIR NISHIMOTO AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH  
COMMITTEE:

MY NAME IS KU'UMEAALOHA GOMES, AND THIS TESTIMONY IS BEING  
SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF HCR 223, REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A  
COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH'S COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER AND WAI'ANAE'S  
INDEPENDANTLY OPERATED COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER.

FROM 1978 - 1988, AS A MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR, I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE  
WAI'ANAE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. ANDY  
ALLAN WHO SERVED AS THE CENTER'S DIRECTOR AND DR. ERNEST HUNTER,  
WHO WAS THE CENTER'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. DOCTORS ALLAN AND HUNTER  
WERE COMMITTED TO WORKING IN AND WITH SMALL RURAL COMMUNITIES IN  
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SETTINGS. BOTH OF THEM HAD WRITTEN  
SUBSTANTIALLY ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN GUAM AND OTHER  
SMALL PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS. A PRIMARY GOAL OF DR. ALLAN'S WAS TO

ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT AND DECISION MAKING OF THE WAI'ANAE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, WITH THE IDEA THAT THE WAI'ANAE COAST COMMUNITY SHOULD EVENTUALLY RUN AND OPERATE ITS OWN MENTAL HEALTH CENTER. THUS, A COMMUNITY BOARD WAS FORMED AND KUPUNA MRS. MARIE OLSEN SERVED AS THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD.

DURING MY TENURE AT THE WAI'ANAE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER DR. ALLAN ENCOURAGED HIS STAFF TO WORK WITH AND IN THE SCHOOLS, TO BE INVOLVED WITH COMMUNITY COALITIONS, TO MAKE HOME VISITS TO GET TO KNOW CLIENTS BETTER, AND SUPPORT AND BECOME INVOLVED IN EXISTING ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY. AS STAFF WE UNDERSTOOD THAT ALTHOUGH WE WORKED AT THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, IN ESSENCE WE REALLY WORKED FOR THE WAI'ANAE COAST COMMUNITY, THUS, ASIDE FROM CLIENTS WE SAW AT THE CENTER, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO WORK WITH FOLKS IN THE COMMUNITY, TO GET TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY AND BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY, TO LEARN FROM COMMUNITY AND TO SHARE OUR EXPERTISE WITH COMMUNITY. OUR EFFORTS WERE COLLABORATIVE AND CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY.

THESE EFFORTS WERE THE BEGINNING OF THE MOVE TO SUPPORT AN INDEPENDANT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENER OWNED, OPERATED AND MANAGED BY THE COMMUNITY. TODAY, THAT ENTITY IS HALE NA'AU PONO, THE NOT FOR PROFIT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER IN WAI'ANAE, WHICH HAS MORE THAN PROVEN ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY IN MAINTAINING A MYRIAD OF SERVICES THAT HAS SERVED THE COMMUNITY AND THE MENTAL HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE IT IS CONCERNED WITH, SINCE 1987. HALE NA'AU PONO IS A MODEL THAT HAS RECEIVED NOT JUST LOCAL, BUT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION, FOR EXAMPLE, BY THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES, FROM THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MANAGED HEALTHCARE CONGRESS, AND THE NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, INCLUDING OUR STATE OF

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S BEST PRACTICES CONFERENCES, AND IN ADDITION, NATIVE AMERICAN AND CANADIAN FIRST NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS.

THUS, MY TESTIMONY TODAY IS TO SUPPORT A "FINANCIAL, PROGRAM AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S COMMUNITY BASED MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS AND THE WAI'ANAEO COAST COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER HALE NA'AU PONO". I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THIS AUDIT WILL VALIDATE THE QUALITY, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE WAI'ANAEO COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER HALE NA'AU PONO.

I URGE THIS COMMITTEE TO PASS H.C.R. 223.

MAHALO FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY.

L. KU'UMEALOHA GOMES, MPH  
1967 NAIO ST.  
HONOLULU, HI 96817

LATE

Dear Representative Scott Nishimoto,

I would like to express my concern of the efforts to transform the mental health system to be more responsive to communities, to operate more efficiently and to turn out better results.

Wai'anae's Hale Na`au Pono has been a model of good community involvement, operated most efficiently and has produced great results in helping the mentally health clients in that area for twenty years. It should be given a fair assessment along with the Health Department's mental health centers to review, contrast and compare and come up with the most fair evaluation upon which to base better policies in the future for all mental health institutions in the state.

I have had many years of volunteering and associating with both the staff and the clients at Hale Na`au Pono as an architectural designer helping with facilities plans and improvements. I have been very impressed with the fair, efficient and productive results of that institution's efforts. It would be very satisfying to see them used as a model for better operations methods for all of Hawai`i whether in private or public mental health procedures.

An honest assessment between the recognized and awarded experience of Wai'anae's Hale Na'au Pono and the experience of the Department of Health's community health centers would be an excellent first step towards the best decisions which would affect the future of all peoples who have great needs for assistance towards better mental health in Hawai`i.

I support Hale Na'au Pono and request that there be a scheduling for a fair hearing on this resolution. I support this resolution and hope that you as our representative would do all you can to assist this effort.

Aloha,

Loralee Arnold  
Faculty at Chaminade University  
Honolulu, Hawai`i

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Testimony on  
House Concurrent Resolution 223

Requesting the Auditor to conduct a Comparative Financial and Management audit of the Department of Health's Community Mental Health Center and Wai`anae's Independently operated Community Mental Health Center

**Submitted by: Ho`oipo DeCambra**

Aloha Members of the Committee,

"Patients' difficulty in accessing basic medical care, coupled with increasing state budget cuts to mental health services, has perpetuated a crisis in America's public mental health system, leading to a shocking increase in mortality rates and a steep increase in social and economic costs", National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare Press Release, Washington, DC, April 2, 1009.

I am a recognized Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader, Community Scholar, and served a term as President of the Wai`anae Coast Community Mental Health Center. I currently work as the Residential Housing Director for Wai`anae Coast Community Mental Health Center caring for 64 Adults with Serious Mental Illness.

I was a member of the committee who asked the State to leave and allow the Wai`anae Community to develop a demonstration model of a community mental health system of care for our community during 1986-1987. Our community of Wai`anae was frustrated with teenage suicides during the 80's and we felt helpless. Kids were hanging themselves at Ma`ili Beach Park. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation was involved in those early days and gave a million dollars to the State to support the demonstration model. The Department of Health supported the demonstration model as did the University of Hawaii, School of Medicine.

I was present when Kupuna Marie Olsen from Nanakuli sat at the Wai`anae Satellite City Hall with her small note pad and counted how many people entered the State's Mental Health Office for services within a week. Kupuna Olsen taught us an appreciation of gathering data to make decisions.

Our history doesn't begin with a new Department of Health Director or a new Administration. We have a quarter of a century of experience in the field of providing Community Mental Health Services on the Wai`anae Coast. **Therefore, I am supporting the request of the Auditor to conduct a Comparative Financial and Management audit of the Department of Health's Community Mental Health Centers and Wai`anae's Independent operated Community Health Center.**

Mahalo nui loa,

Ho`oipo DeCambra