

**SB 587**



**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
C O R P O R A T I O N

*"Touching Lives Everyday"*

**The Senate  
Committee on Health  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair**

Friday, February 13, 2009  
3:45 PM  
Conference Room 016  
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting SB 587  
Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation**

*Requires specific actions to be taken before any planned substantial reduction or elimination of direct patient care services at a facility of the Hawaii health systems corporation can be implemented*

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr.  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC)

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the HHSC the necessary flexibility to appropriately adjust the levels of patient care services provided at its facilities.

The primary intent of the legislation that created HHSC was to free the facilities from burdensome and restrictive bureaucratic procedures. This bill will enable HHSC to move more quickly to respond to changes in the health care environment that are created by community patient care demands, resource availability and any newly available technologies.

This bill would remove the requirement to have legislative approvals for adjusting the levels of direct patient care service and place that decision responsibility with the regional Boards of Directors after a public meeting and with ratification by the Corporate Board of Directors. This is in keeping with the intent and purpose of Act 290 which moved more operational oversight and responsibility to the regional Boards for the

HHSC facilities serving the local communities, however final reversal authority remains with the legislature should such oversight be required.

This bill also defines a process to be taken before making any changes to the levels of patient care service. We support the described process that includes providing forums for community input and discussion, and the requirement to prepare a sufficiently detailed plan outlining the purpose and expected outcome of changes to levels of patient care. Any plan will also take into consideration that impacts on employees will be subject to consultation/negotiation with respective unions in accordance with the collective bargaining agreements in place at the time.

We respectfully request your support of this bill.

Thank you.



**LEAHI HOSPITAL**  
**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

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February 13, 2009

**TO: The Senate Committee on Health**  
**Senator David Y. Ige, Chair**  
**Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair**  
**Conference Room 329**

**FROM: Vince H.S. Lee, Regional Chief Executive Officer**

**RE: SENATE BILL 587 REQUIRING SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BEFORE**  
**ANY PLANNED SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF DIRECT**  
**PATIENT CARE SERVICES AT A FACILITY OF THE HAWAII HEALTH**  
**SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

Thank you for providing the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Oahu region an opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 587. The purpose of SB 587 is to require specific actions to be taken before any planned substantial reduction or elimination of direct patient care services at a facility of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

HHSC is a unique state agency because it is a public hospital system. As a responsible hospital system, it must be able to respond effectively and efficiently to the changing health care needs of the island communities it serves. The proposed measure would help HHSC address issues that pertain to patient care demands.

I believe that the operational oversight of levels of direct patient care service should be delegated to regional boards with input from the community and ratification by the corporate board. The recommendation for consideration is aligned with the intent of Act 290.

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent H.S. Lee  
Regional Chief Executive Officer  
HHSC Oahu Region  
(808) 733-9722



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Health

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
February 13, 2009

**S.B. 587 – RELATING TO THE**  
**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
**CORPORATION**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association opposes the purpose and intent of S.B. 587. The bill proposes to allow the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to substantially reduce or eliminate direct patient care services without legislative approval as currently mandated. It requires notifying the Governor, the Speaker of the House and Senate President just prior to implementing the planned reduction or elimination of services.

We believe the existing safeguards requiring legislative approval before services are reduced or eliminated help to preserve the safety net for neighbor island residents who are so dependent upon HHSC hospitals.

If the HHSC wants to make adjustments in the level and types of services offered, the HGEA is willing to participate in these discussions along with legislators whose constituents would be directly affected by such changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opposition to S.B. 587.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:44 AM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** jwalker1@hhsc.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB587 on 2/13/2009 3:45:00 PM

**Categories:** Green Category, Blue Category

Testimony for HTH 2/13/2009 3:45:00 PM SB587

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jerry Walker  
Organization: West Kauai Medical Center  
Address: 4643 Waimea Canyon Drive Waimea, Hi 96796  
Phone: 808-338-9422  
E-mail: [jwalker1@hhsc.org](mailto:jwalker1@hhsc.org)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

The Kauai Region includes the West Kauai Medical Center / KVMH; West Kauai Clinics - Waimea, Eleele, Kalaheo; Mahelona Medical Center / SMMH, supports SB587. The bill would allow local regional boards the ability to make the necessary changes to the level of services provided within our region. This is in keeping with the intent and purpose of Act 290 which gives operational oversight and responsibility to the regional boards.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 07, 2009 11:55 AM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** thirr33@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB587 on 2/13/2009 3:45:00 PM

**Categories:** Green Category, Blue Category

Testimony for HTH 2/13/2009 3:45:00 PM SB587

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist  
Organization: The Mestizo Association  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [thirr33@gmail.com](mailto:thirr33@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2009

**Comments:**

Chair David Y. Ige  
Vice Chair Josh Green, M.D.  
Right Honorable Members  
The Seante Health Committee

This is a brief testimony in support of  
SB 587 which deals with the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

I agree with the intent of the maker, & recommend that a defective effective date of June 1, 2011, in order to move the discussion along.

This and most bills introduced at the Capitol which deals with due process and fairness to the workforce are commendable and well appreciated.

Mahalo.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:45 PM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** egreenia@hhsc.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB587 on 2/13/2009 3:45:00 PM

**Categories:** Green Category, Blue Category

Testimony for HTH 2/13/2009 3:45:00 PM SB587

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Earl Greenia  
Organization: Kona Community Hospital  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [egreenia@hhsc.org](mailto:egreenia@hhsc.org)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

This important bill will provide HHSC hospitals greater flexibility to respond to changing environmental conditions and change services as needed.