

LATE

HB 1284

LATE

April 6, 2009

Faith Action for



Community Equity

Gamaliel Foundation Affiliate

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Honolulu, HI 96817

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The Rev. Alan Mark
Statewide President

The Rev. Robert Nakata
Oahu President

The Rev. Bill Albinger
Maui President

Ms. Judy Ott
Statewide Secretary

The Rev. Frances Wiebenga
Oahu Vice President, Clergy

Dr. Clementina Ceria-Ulep
Oahu Vice President, Laity

Dr. Kathy Jaycox
Oahu Secretary

Ms. Emily Militoni
Oahu Assistant Secretary

Mr. Rosario Baniaga
Oahu Treasurer

Mr. Drew Astolfi
Executive Director

Mr. Patrick Zukemura
Oahu Lead Organizer

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday April 6, 2009
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB 1284
RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Kim and members of the committee:

We are Rev. Bob Nakata, President of FACE and Rev. Sam Domingo, Chair of the FACE Healthcare Committee. FACE supports this measure.

FACE has identified inadequate reimbursement to our healthcare providers as one of the major issues that impact our access to healthcare. Our state's healthcare delivery system has imploded. This measure will temporarily address our inadequate reimbursement system for physicians who treat Medicaid and Quest-eligible patients.

Thank you

LATE

March 19, 2009

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

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

DATE: Thursday, March 19, 2009
TIME: 1:45pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB 1284 HD1
RELATING TO HEALTH

Good afternoon Chair Chun Oakland and Ige and members of the committees:

I am Rev Bob Nakata and I am the President of FACE. FACE is an interfaith organization with membership including 60 churches, temples, unions and civic organizations and has been active in Hawaii for 12 years. It represents over 30,000 people who reflect the cultural and socio-economic diversity of our State. FACE exists to allow its members to live out our common faith-based values by engaging in actions that challenge the systems that perpetuate poverty and injustice. **FACE supports this measure and we ask that you pass this bill.**

Act 284, SLH 2007 similarly appropriated \$8 million in general funds for a physician reimbursement increase to 100% of Medicare. Act 284 provided funds of \$8 million of state monies each year of the 2007-2008 biennium totaling \$16 million with 57% federal matching funds amounting to \$9 million for two years. The Governor refused to release these funds for 2007 much to the dismay of FACE, providers and the citizens of the State of Hawaii. In spite of the requirements of Act 284, which required that physicians be reimbursed 100% of Medicare, we are told that DHS is only providing physicians with

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reimbursements of approximately 79.5% of the 2006 Medicaid rates for year 2008. Act 284 also required DHS to provide the future amounts that will be required to full fund reimbursements of 100% of Medicare to be reported to the legislature for funding discussions.

Our Governor, in her own 2007 State of the State Address, said “High costs and low reimbursements are driving hospitals out of business and physicians out of the practice of medicine.” Her words have consistently been, “Increasing physician reimbursement rates to help cover their out-of-pocket expenses is essential to keeping medical services providers in Hawaii.” And in May, 2008 she said to Mayor Harry Kim, “Fair and appropriate reimbursements to the medical community remain one of my highest priorities.”

The Department of Human Services has said: “While this measure has merit, given the current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time”. If budget priority is the reason, what could be more prudent than the health and well-being and ultimately the survival of our citizens, especially those most in need? What would be more prudent than to invest in the public interest and keep our physicians and hospitals in the practice of medicine for our most vulnerable?

Please pass this bill and allow the people of Hawaii to make certain that the Governor hear our demands and release all the appropriated funds to increase reimbursement to our physicians in spite of her past refusal to honor the law and the demands the taxpayers.