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**Waimānalo Health Center**  
Ola Hāloa  
The Sustaining of Life

**House Committee on Health**

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair

The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1366**  
**Relating to Healthcare**

**February 9, 2010 9:30 a.m., Room 329**

Submitted by May Akamine, RN, MS, Executive Director

I strongly support this bill which establishes the Medical Home Demonstration Project to contract with AlohaCare to provide primary care to patients of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) and Waimanalo Health Center (WHC).

Choices should be given to our most vulnerable Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) Medicaid patients regarding the care that they receive in the QUEST Expanded Access (QExA) program. Under this demonstration project, patients could choose a Medical Home model of care which is patient/family-driven, community-based, and has a health team approach with integrated, personalized services to meet the bio-psycho-socio-cultural needs of the patient. Care management remains the responsibility of the patient, family, and the health team which includes the health plan.

WHC is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system serving our community providing quality preventive and primary health and social services. We served over 3,300 people in 18,000 visits this past year; 33% of our patients have no health insurance; 43% have QUEST; 8% are QExA ABD patients. Not only do we serve the uninsured and underinsured, but also the poor, elderly, at-risk youth, homeless, and others with financial, cultural, social and other barriers to care. Also, we serve a high percent of Native Hawaiians who have the worst health indicators (hypertension, diabetes, obesity, etc.) compared to other ethnic groups.

We are deeply concerned that QExA began and continues without adequate provider networks in place. This bill allows another option for our ABD QExA patients to choose the Medical Home model of care via WHC and WCCHC.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our health centers, our patients and our communities. We urge your support for HB 1366, which establishes the Medical Home Demonstration Project to contract with AlohaCare to provide primary care to patients of the WCCHC and WHC. Mahalo nui loa for your support. ALOHA!



## Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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### House Committee on Health

The Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

## Testimony in Support of House Bill 1366

### Relating to Health Care

Submitted by **Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer**

**February 9, 2010 9:30 a.m. Agenda, Room 329**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association asks for your support for this measure, which would establish a patient-centered medical home pilot for the QUEST-Expanded program. We support this bill for two reasons:

- 1) QExA's implementation over the past year has been uneven and disappointing. While serving our most vulnerable people with the most complicated health needs, it has offered generally poor communication and management between plans and patients and their providers. In addition, the QExA plans' record for timely and accurate reimbursement to providers has been very inconsistent.
- 2) The patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model deserves to be demonstrated here in Hawai'i. In other states where the PCMH model has been used with the Medicaid patients with complicated health care needs, it has proven to save tens of millions of dollars due to timely primary care, excellent case management, and reduced duplication. We are confident that Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and Waimanalo Health Center are excellent choices for such a pilot both because of their capabilities with the PCMH and because of the needs of their communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.