

HB2084

HD1



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 8, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2084, H.D.1 – RELATING TO THE FEDERAL DISPROPORTIONATE
SHARE HOSPITAL FUNDS**

Hearing: Monday, March 8, 2010, 2:55 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the State's portion of the Federal disproportionate share hospital allowance (DSH).

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) must respectfully oppose this bill. Given the State's current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to pursue enactment of a new general fund appropriation to match the federal disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allowance to hospitals.

DSH funds are accessed as a Federal match to a State share that can be a new State general fund appropriation or certain general fund expenditures, such as certified expenditures of the Hawaii Health System Corporation (HHSC). The State share needed varies based on the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) at the time the Federal funds are drawn down.

Due to the efforts of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation and others, a Federal Medicaid DSH allowance of \$2.5 million per quarter through December 31, 2011 has been authorized for Hawaii. DSH payments, using the distribution formula developed by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), have been made through June 30, 2008. With agreement from HAH, DHS is submitting a Medicaid State Plan amendment to the Federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) using excess HHSC certified expenditures to match the federal DSH allowance for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Federal DSH allowance is still available for the period July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011.

Finally, please note that DHS has also been distributing "DSH-like" federal funds of \$7.5 million per year to hospitals statewide since 2005 pursuant to a creative Medicaid 1115 waiver that DHS obtained from CMS. DHS distributes these funds based on the same DSH formula developed by the HAH. The next distribution of these funds is scheduled to occur in February 2010.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

March 8, 2010 – 2:55 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In Strong Support of HB 2084, HD1 Relating to the Federal Disproportionate Share Hospital Funds

Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Green and Ihara and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rick Keene, Executive VP and Chief Financial Officer for The Queen's Health Systems. I am testifying for The Queen's Medical Center in strong support of HB 2084, HD1, which appropriates State funds to match federal funding of \$15,000,000 for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allowance for Medicaid/Quest patients.

Medicaid/Quest is the cornerstone of health care for our most needy population. Hawaii's hospitals in particular have been detrimentally affected by the inadequacy of Medicaid/Quest reimbursements and payments, and have annually lost tens of millions of dollars because government reimbursement is far below the cost of providing medical care. In fiscal year 2008, The Queen's Medical Center treated 4,694 inpatients and 29,785 outpatients who were covered by Medicaid/Quest. The October 2008 report "Issues Impacting Hawaii's Hospitals, Nursing Facilities, Home Care and Hospice Providers" by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, found that in 2007, losses for Medicaid, Quest and uninsured patients in Hawaii were approximately \$48,100,000.

The proposed State funding of \$12,654,867, combined with the federal appropriation will supplement the reimbursement shortfall for Medicaid/Quest patients. Without state matching funds, the federal funding will be lost. Your support and approval of HB 2084, HD1 is crucial toward enabling Hawaii's hospitals to continue to serve the needy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of
Frank P. Richardson
Vice President and Regional Counsel

Before:
Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

and

Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

March 8, 2010
2:55 pm
Conference Room 016

**HB 2084, HD1 RELATING TO THE FEDERAL DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE
HOSPITAL FUNDS (DSH Match)**

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB2084, HD1 that would appropriate state funds to match federal funding for the disproportionate share hospital allowance.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

The cost of delivering health care in Hawaii and across the nation continues to mount. In an effort to ensure that health care payments are sufficient to cover the actual costs of care provided to Medicaid patients in hospitals in Hawaii, Kaiser Hawaii supports this measure to appropriate the required state funds necessary to match the federal Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) appropriation of \$15,000,000 for Hawaii: \$2,500,000 for the fourth quarter of federal fiscal year 2008, \$10,000,000 for federal fiscal year 2009, and \$2,500,000 for the first quarter of federal fiscal year 2010.

The State appropriation of matching funds, together with the federal appropriation, will help support funding of quality health care for the State of Hawaii's Medicaid population, and provide much needed assistance in covering the actual costs of the care provided.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator David Ige, Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Conference Room 016
March 8, 2010 at 2:55 p.m.

Supporting HB 2084 HD 1.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2084 HD 1, which appropriates State funds to match federal Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funds.

The federal government makes DSH funds available to hospitals that serve disproportionately high numbers of low-income patients. DSH partially pays for care that is not covered by insurance such as Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance. In 2009 Hawaii's hospitals experienced losses totaling \$114 million in bad debt and charity care, which may be attributed largely to patients who were uninsured and did not have the financial resources to pay for their care. DSH funds are distributed to states, which in turn distribute the funds to the individual hospitals.

Although Hawaii's hospitals incur losses due to uncompensated care, Hawaii does not receive DSH funding on a regular basis. Hawaii and Tennessee are currently the only two states without permanent DSH funding. Hawaii lost DSH with the creation of its Quest program under Medicaid. However, in recent years our Congressional Delegation has been able to secure appropriations for DSH payments to Hawaii's hospitals on a year-to-year basis. These federal funds are required to be matched by State funds using the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP).

In 2009, SB 423 appropriated \$12 million in State funds to draw down \$15 million in federal DSH funds for a total of \$27 million to be distributed to private hospitals. The bill was passed by the Legislature and subsequently vetoed by the Governor. The Legislature overrode the Governor's veto, but the Governor has indicated that she does not intend to release the money from the State general fund or the Rainy Day Fund. The bill under consideration today, HB 2084 HD 1, again seeks that State match in the hopes that State funds will become available in the coming year.

Meanwhile, the Administration is making an effort to match a portion of available federal DSH funds with certified losses by the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, which receives general funds appropriated by the State. While the Administration should be credited for this effort, it would result in far less than \$27 million distributed to private hospitals because only the federal DSH funds that are matched would be distributed to them. Furthermore, the certified losses would match some, but not all, of the federal DSH funds that are available. If the Administration's efforts are successful, the bill should later be amended to reduce the amount of the State appropriation so that it matches the remaining federal DSH funds.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports HB 2084 HD 1.



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2084, HD 1 **Relating to the Federal Disproportionate Share Hospital Funds**

Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer

March 8, 2010 2:55 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association supports this measure which would appropriate funds to attract a significant federal match for Medicaid services provided by Hawaii's disproportionate share hospitals. Our hospital network must be supported to ensure the continued availability of high quality emergency and in-patient services. While the payment is related to services for Medicaid beneficiaries, who tend to be sicker and have more socio-economic complications, it also affects every Hawaii resident and visitor who should be confident that our hospitals have the capacity to meet our needs.

As a secondary concern, hospitals function as an important part of our economy, providing jobs and attracting diverse revenues. Securing additional federal money, therefore, also contributes to our ailing economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Hawaii State Rural Health Association
Testimony for HB2084 regarding health

3/2010

The Hawaii State Rural Health Association would like to express our strongest support for HB2084. We have conducted published research on the rural health care needs across the State and found that while all communities are unique, there are some themes that are common throughout the state. The most common needs for improving health in rural areas were identified as 1) Financial assistance (insurance coverage, medication, free services; 2) Expanding services that are available to rural communities (including CHC, community and telehealth services); and 3) Improving access to available services (Long term care, primary care, specialty care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, health care training and other services).

Therefore the Hawaii State Rural Health Association fully supports HB2084 because it is essential to maintain health insurance for those who are the most in need. The State must match the federal disproportionate share hospital allowance so that we can meet the medical need of those who live in rural Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Kelley Withy, MD, PhD
President, Hawaii State Rural Health Association

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 8, 2010

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

Re: HB 2084 HD1 – Relating to the Federal Disproportionate Share Hospital Funds

Dear Chair Ige, Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2084 HD1.

HB 2084 HD1 would provide an appropriation to enable Hawaii to receive Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding from the Federal Government. Congress established the DSH program in 1981 to help ensure that states provide adequate financial support to hospitals that serve a significant number of low-income patients with special needs. However, since 1993, as part of the agreement for the establishment of Med-QUEST, Hawaii has not qualified for DSH dollars. This year, as in last, legislation to provide the state's share would allow hospitals to receive needed funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2084 HD1.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations



**Testimony to the Senate Committees on Health and Human Services
Monday, March 8, 2010 at 2:55 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2084 HD1 RELATING TO THE FEDERAL
DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL FUNDS**

Chairs Ige and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Green and Ihara, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 2084, HD1 relating to the Federal Disproportionate Share Hospital Funds.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber commends the Legislature for playing an active role in passing legislation that appropriates money to match federal funds in the past couple of sessions. Quality health care is critical to the people and economy of Hawaii. As one of the largest private industries in Hawaii, the health care industry plays an important role in our economy, particularly through attractive, well-paying jobs and through the purchase of goods and services that contribute to our state's economy. As such, the health care industry plays a crucial role in the economic development and sustainability of our state and all of Hawaii's businesses. Also, Hawaii's healthcare system provides quality care for our families and serves to attract and retain a professional workforce, new companies, and even tourists to our state.

However, the quality healthcare that Hawaii has enjoyed for years is now in jeopardy. It is on the verge of declining because healthcare providers are no longer being paid for essential services at a level sufficient to cover annually increasing costs. The health care system must be maintained and challenges must be addressed.

Therefore, The Chamber supports improvements to the quality of our health care system. They include legislation that will improve payments to health care providers of essential health care services and increase long term care capacity and access statewide. Appropriating funds to match the federal funding for medicaid is the first step in the right direction to ameliorate the current state of health care in Hawaii.

In light of the above, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii supports HB 2084 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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
Committee on Human Services

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
March 8, 2010

H.B. 2084, H.D. 1 (HSCR598-10) -
RELATING TO THE FEDERAL
DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE
HOSPITAL FUNDS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO, supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2084, H.D. 1 (HSCR598-10). It is critical that Medicaid coverage is made available to Hawaii's most vulnerable population. Hawaii's Congressional delegation has secured a federal disproportionate share hospital appropriation of \$15 million for Hawaii. These funds may only be expended when the state provides a matching appropriation.

The 2009 Legislature overrode the Governor's veto of a bill that would have provided the matching funds. This bill became Act 23, Special Session Laws of Hawaii, 2009.

Providing health care for Hawaii's most vulnerable population is contingent upon the legislature appropriating state funds to match the federal Medicaid funds secured for Hawaii.

We respectfully encourage the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of H.B. 2084, H.D. 1 (HSCR598-10).

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director