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February 22, 2010

To: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro  
Chair, House Committee on Finance

From: 'Ohana Health Plan

Re: House Bill 2085-Relating to Health

Hearing: Monday, February 22, 2010, 10:00 a.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308

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Since February 2009, 'Ohana Health Plan has provided services under the Hawai'i QUEST Expanded Access (QExA) program. 'Ohana is managed by a local team of experienced care professionals who embrace cultural diversity, advocate preventative care and facilitate communications between members and providers. Our philosophy is to place members and their families at the center of the health care continuum.

'Ohana Health Plan is offered by WellCare Health Insurance of Arizona, Inc. WellCare provides managed care services exclusively for government-sponsored health care programs serving approximately 2.3 million Medicaid and Medicare members nationwide. 'Ohana is able to take the national experience in providing an Ohana care model that addresses local members' healthcare and health coordination needs.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit our comments in opposition to House Bill 2085-Relating to Health.

We agree that states must be prepared to implement changes to existing health care programs as health care reform legislation becomes law. We also appreciate the legislative intent to ensure a continuity of care for Hawai'i's neediest population and make certain that Medicaid contracts comply with any changes in law due to health care reform. However, given the current status of national healthcare reform, this legislation is premature and may not accurately apply to actual implementation and contractual changes that may be necessary should national health care reform efforts become law.

Additionally, we are concerned about placing a dollar amount cap, through statute, on QUEST contracts when the landscape of health care services is changing, especially as federal health care reform is in development. It would be impractical to put a statutory limit on contract amounts when market changes dictate cost.

Considering these issues, we respectfully request that this committee hold House Bill 2085 at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on this measure.