

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2009
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 317
RELATING TO MOBILE MEDICAL CARE**

House Bill 317 proposes that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) receive federal Homeland Security Grant Program funds to provide the people of the southern portion of the Island of Hawaii, who have been heavily impacted by vog, with increased access to suitable emergency and clinical medical care. The Department does not support SECTIONS 3 and 4 of this measure as presently written, and defers comments on public emergency medical care matters in this bill to the Department of Health (DOH).

This bill authorizes the Department to expend federal Homeland Security Grant Program funds in coordination with DOH to provide for a mobile emergency and clinical medical care program for Hawaii County's Kona community. The Department does not receive any funds for public health, emergency and clinical medical care and it is unlikely that we would qualify to receive public health funds for any purpose. And as natural, cultural, and historic resources managers, the Department feels that it may not be the appropriate agency to request, and manage federal Homeland Security Grant Program funding for public health, emergency and clinical medical care purposes.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL V. TSUJI
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORY PRESERVATION
KAIHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

HB 317, RELATING TO MOBILE MEDICAL CARE

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

Tuesday, March 3, 2009; 3:00 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health opposes this measure to appropriate federal funds
2 from the Homeland Security Grant Program for the purchase of a mobile medical van to be based at
3 Kona Community Hospital.

4 **Financial Impact:** Appropriates \$500,000 in Federal Homeland Security Grant funds.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department appreciates that there are significant barriers in accessing
6 medical services in rural areas such as the southern area of Hawaii County. Mobile medical vans are
7 one strategy that could be used to address some of these barriers. However, we are concerned that this
8 measure appropriates funds for the medical van, but no funds to provide medical professionals to staff
9 the vans. The cost of staffing would be considerable and is not addressed. In addition, we note that
10 Homeland Security Grant funding allocations are decided through a grant application process set forth
11 by the Federal government with the Department of Defense as the lead agency for the State.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HMSA



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March 3, 2009

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

Re: HB 317 – Relating to Mobile Medical Care

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 317.

HMSA is dedicated to ensuring that all of our members are able to access the care they need, when they need it. We support initiatives to increase the ability of individuals who are in underserved areas to access appropriate services. Some rural areas on our neighbor islands lack the facilities to provide appropriate levels of medical care. This is especially true of the communities of Ka'u and Upper Puna which are directly affected by volcanic emissions.

This measure would authorize the use of existing federal funds to be used for a mobile care unit to provide medical care to some of the more rural areas of the Big Island. This unit would undoubtedly save lives by providing timely access to care. We respectfully urge the committee to look favorably upon this measure.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations