

HB 317



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

HB 317, HD 1, SD 1, RELATING TO MOBILE MEDICAL CARE

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

April 2, 2009

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments on this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Estimated \$350,000 for van purchase plus \$340,000 annually to staff and operate
3 such a unit.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The measure mandates that Kona Community Hospital purchase a mobile
5 medical van to be based at the hospital and for the hospital to develop a program to provide basic
6 medical services to South Kona, Ka'u, and upper Puna areas of the county of Hawaii.

7 We note that Section 3 authorizes a federal funding ceiling increase of \$500,000 for the
8 Department of Land and Natural Resources to accommodate federal funds received under the Homeland
9 Security Grant Program. Such allocations are decided through a grant application process set forth by
10 the federal government with the State Department of Defense as the lead agency for the State.

11 We further note that Section 4 identifies the Department of Health as the expending agency for
12 these funds, directing the DOH to establish an agreement with an appropriate funding agency to
13 underwrite the operational cost of the van program for at least two years.

14 We estimate the cost to operate such a van five days a week would be \$340,000 annually for
15 staffing, maintenance, gas, and insurance. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
April 2, 2009

H.B. 317, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 –
RELATING TO MOBILE
MEDICAL CARE

The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 317, H.D. 1, S.D. 1. The bill proposes to use Homeland Security grant program funds for the purchase of a mobile medical van, including expenses related to planning and equipment, and to provide basic medical/clinical services to people residing in the southern portion of the Big Island. This particular region of the Big Island has been heavily impacted by vog, leaving residents with little access to appropriate medical care.

As proposed, the mobile medical van would be stationed at Kona Community Hospital to serve the communities of South Kona, Ka'u and upper Puna. The mobile medical van program will establish specific routes and services to address the health related needs of these areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for H.B. 317, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura

Deputy Executive Director