



Maui Memorial
MEDICAL CENTER

LATE

March 20, 2009

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Friday, March 20, 2009, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016

FROM: Wesley Lo, Regional Chief Executive Officer

RE: **HB 694, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB 694**. The purpose of HB 694 is to authorize Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) and the Maui Regional System Board to remove the Maui Regional Health Care System and its facilities from HHSC by transferring regional assets to a legal entity which will finance and continue to provide health care services to Maui.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. It will allow the regions access to alternative funding sources.
2. If alternative funding sources are secured, the level of state funding required by HHSC would be significantly reduced.
3. Partnerships with larger healthcare organizations will allow for the opportunity to improve healthcare in the State.

If this measure is not passed, the State faces having to fully subsidize HHSC or if it is unable to do so, health care services in all the regions will have to be dramatically reduced or eliminated. For a region such as Maui where there is only ONE acute health care facility available to residents and visitors, the reduction or elimination of services will have devastating effects.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB 694**.

Respectfully submitted,

Wesley Lo
Regional Chief Executive Officer
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