

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
MARCH 16, 2010
Testimony in Support of SB 2286, SD1**

May it please the Committee:

I am Stuart T.K. Ho, chair of the long term care commission (LTCC) created by Act 224, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008.

This testimony is in support of SB 2286, SD1 relating to long-term care. The Commission agrees with the bill's proposed amendments to Act 224 changing the dates of the interim and final reports submitted to the Legislature by the LTCC and extending the life of the LTCC upon the adjournment *sine die* of the regular session of the 2012 Legislature.

SB 2286, SD1 coincides with the dates set forth in HB 1902, HD1 which are satisfactory to the LTCC. I understand and appreciate the House's and Senate's desire to accommodate the LTCC's revised work plan and I look forward to cooperating to satisfy this aim.

FOR THE LONG TERM CARE COMMISSION

/s/ Stuart T.K. Ho
Stuart T.K. Ho, Chairman

Copy: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services



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March 16, 2010

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Health

The Honorable John M. Mizuno
Chair, House Committee on Human Services

From: 'Ohana Health Plan

Re: Senate Bill 2286, Senate Draft 2-Relating to the Long Term Care

Hearing: Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 11:00 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329

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 testimony in support of Senate Bill 2286, Senate Draft 2-Relating to the Long Term Care.

It is extremely important that we continue the discussion about long term care as our population ages. There are many unresolved issues that must be addressed. Expanding the scope of the long term care commission will facilitate a more comprehensive discussion and may generate solutions for one of our neediest populations.

As a QExA provider for our kupuna, 'Ohana cares deeply about long term care issues. We appreciate any opportunity to participate in the dialogue about long term care, including discussion on this bill and others similar to it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2286, Senate Draft 2.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Conference Room 329
March 16, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

Supporting SB 2286 SD 1.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii represents 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 SB 2286 SD 1, which extends the Long Term Care Commission created by Act 224, SLH 2008 from 2010 to 2012, and delays its reports to the Legislature.

Long term care is a significant and growing social concern because of Hawaii's large and increasing elderly population. As the frail elderly population increases, the need for long term care will also increase. Long term care can be expensive. The cost of nursing home care, for example, is typically more than \$100,000 annually, and it is not covered by Medicare.

The responsibilities of the Long Term Care Commission include identifying problems related to long term care and developing a comprehensive long term care plan. The Commission is composed of representatives of a broad spectrum of the population. The job of the Commission is formidable, and the Commission needs more time to complete its work.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports SB 2286 SD 1.