

March 17, 2011
10:35am
Conference Room 329

To: The Honorable Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Rep. Ryan I. Yaman, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

From: Paula Arcena, Director of Public Policy

Re: SB425 Relating to Medicaid

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB425, SD3 which would authorize and evaluate health and wellness alternatives that reduce the incidence of chronic disease, support Medicaid and QUEST recipients in adopting and maintaining healthier lifestyles, and reduce health care expenditures associated with emergency care and other hospital-based treatments for avoidable chronic disease. The measure also would establish a joint legislative task force on Medicaid to examine issues relating to Medicaid shortfalls, including the Medicaid buy-in program for working people with disabilities.

AlohaCare is a non-profit, Hawaii based health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's community health centers to serve low-income families and medically vulnerable members of our community through government sponsored health insurance programs. We serve beneficiaries of Medicaid and Medicare on all islands.

AlohaCare has been contracted by the Hawaii Department of Human Services since the QUEST program started in 1994 to provide insurance coverage for Medicaid eligible beneficiaries through the QUEST program. We serve approximately 75,000 QUEST enrollees statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.