



LATE TESTIMONY

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March 19, 2011

Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations,
and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Hearing:

Friday, March 21, 2011, 2:45 P.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Rm. 229

RE: SR27 & SCR53 – STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID TO THE STATE OF HAWAII FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS STATE SERVICES TO MIGRANTS FROM THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS; DEEM MIGRANTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FEDERALLY FUNDED FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE; AND PROVIDE DIALYSIS AND CHEMOTHERAPY CENTERS IN MICRONESIA AND ALL AREAS WITHIN THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS.

Testimony in Support

Chair's Green and Espero and members of the Committee's, on behalf of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc., we offer this testimony in support of SR27 & SCR53,

For over 60 years, the American Cancer Society in Hawaii has been leading the fight against cancer in Hawaii. Our organization is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering caused from cancer, through research, education, and advocacy. This mission includes strongly advocating for groups and individuals who lose insurance coverage that is necessary for treatment for cancer.

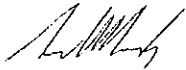
The issue additional funding for health services for our COFA migrants has been a major concern for all involved. As the committees are aware, this came to a head in the fall of 2009, when the Department of Human Services elected to terminate Quest coverage for COFA migrants and unilaterally transfer COFA beneficiaries to a new program – **Basic Health Hawaii, that offered only limited health coverage and contained no provisions to provide chemotherapy for those**

individuals undergoing cancer treatment. The subsequent transfer of beneficiaries was enjoined by federal court on constitutional grounds.

Needless to say the underlying problem of the need for additional federal support still exists, and we are happy to add our voice to the chorus requesting the U.S. Department of Interior to provide funding for dialysis and chemotherapy centers in Micronesia, as well as additional funding in the form of direct assistance to Hawaii and COFA migrants residing here.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of SR27 & SCR53.

Respectfully,



George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations