

# **TESTIMONY**

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# **HB1953, HD1**

**HTH  
Committee Hearing  
03-16-2012**



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Health**

**HB 1953, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health**

**Friday, March 16, 2012, 1:30pm**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this measure provided that it  
2 does not reduce or replace priorities within our Supplemental Budget Request.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds for pre-hospital emergency medical services on Oahu and for  
4 Wahiawa General Hospital for emergency room services.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health is collaborating with the City and County of  
6 Honolulu Emergency Medical Services Division, American Medical Response, the Healthcare  
7 Association of Hawaii, and Oahu hospitals and providers of urgent care services to address the closure  
8 in December of two acute care hospitals on Oahu. All have come forward with creative and  
9 collaborative efforts to minimize negative impacts on patients and the community.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair

Conference Room 229  
March 16, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

**Supporting HB 1953 HD 1: Relating to Emergency Medical Care.**

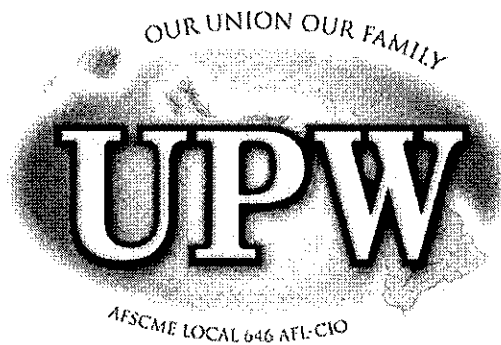
The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 40,000 people. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1953 HD 1, which appropriates funds for emergency medical services in West Oahu and Central Oahu.

Two emergency rooms on Oahu closed when the Hawaii Medical Center hospitals ceased operations in December of 2011. Predictably, the remaining emergency rooms on Oahu have experienced significantly increased usage since then. They have been making adjustments to compensate for increased utilization, but they must work within fiscal limitations. This appropriation allows them to expand the existing capacity.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports HB 1953 HD 1.

SUBMITTED BY:  
GAIL COLEMAN  
Administrative Secretary

TESTIFIER:  
GEORGE GREENE  
President / CEO



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2012

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Sen. Josh Green M.D., Chair  
The Honorable Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, March 16, 2012  
TIME OF HEARING: 1:30 p.m.  
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1953 HD1 RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers,  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”)

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 11,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW strongly supports HB 1953 HD1 that appropriates necessary funds to increase the on-call availability of emergency medical services and ambulance services to the communities in Leeward Oahu. The proposed legislation also appropriates necessary funds through a grant and from general revenues of the state to assist Wahiawa General hospital in providing additional emergency room services.

The closures of Hawaii Medical Center’s hospitals in Ewa Beach and Liliha have negatively impacted emergency medical care for residents on the Leeward Coast. The County of Honolulu emergency medical services division will now pick up the slack by responding,

transporting and attending to medical emergencies in the leeward area that they may not have had to attend to in the past.

HB 1953 HD1 also provides funds to Wahiwa General Hospital, which will allow them to provide additional emergency room services, which is greatly needed.

Thank you for opportunity to testify on this measure.