



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Honorable Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Monday, February 27, 2012
TIME OF HEARING: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY ON HB 1953 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 that appropriates necessary funds to increase the on-call availability of emergency medical services and ambulance services in Ewa Beach and Nanakuli. 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 has 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 also provides funds to Waihaiwa 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.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Conference Room 308

February 27, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. (Agenda #4)

Supporting HB 1953: 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, 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.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 10:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1953 on 2/27/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/27/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1953

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kamaki Kanahale, Chairman
Organization: SCHHA
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mike Kahikina, Legislative Chairman
Organization: SCHHA
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:

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Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Beatrice Hew Len, Secretary
Organization: Mokupuni O Oahu, SCHHA
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Herbert Hew Len, President
Organization: Waianae Kai Homestead Community Assn, SCHHA
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments:

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Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimo Kelii, Vice President
Organization: Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Community Assn., SCHHA
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2012

Comments: