

LĀNA'I COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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The Community is our Patient -- men, women, children, uninsured, insured!

February 2, 2012

House Committee on Health

The Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2116

Relating to Health

Submitted by Diana M. V. Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACMPE, Executive Director

House Committee on Health

The Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Friday, February 3, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 329

The Lana'i Community Health Center (LCHC) provides services to residents on Lana'i — the only FQHC on island, and the only provider serving the uninsured on Lana'i — **strongly supports House Bill 2116**, which provides funding for uninsured patients at community health centers. This bill recognizes the priority of health and living well in our communities.

Approximately 40% (over 1000) encounters at LCHC during 2011 were for uninsured patients. We anticipate an increase in uninsured this year as Medicaid eligibility reductions are implemented. It is becoming increasingly difficult for our organization to continue to provide services for this growing number of patients and strongly urge you to pass this bill and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

E Ola nō Lāna'i

LIFE, HEALTH, and WELL-BEING FOR LĀNA'I

L A T E

Kalihi-Palama Health Center

915 North King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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Testimony on HB 2116 RELATING TO HEALTH

Report Title: Department of Health; Community Health Centers; Appropriation

Submitted by Emmanuel Kintu, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

Date of Hearing: February 3, 2012; at 9:00 a.m.

Kalihi-Palama Health Center (KPHC) strongly supports HB 2116 to provide funding for quality, cost effective health care for Hawaii's uninsured through non-profit community health centers. Federally Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHCs) have demonstrated that they are a foundation of Hawaii's Health Care Safety Net. When we do our work effectively, we provide comprehensive, integrated, culturally appropriate primary health care. We improve clinical outcomes, **improve the health and wellness of our communities, reduce total health care costs**, and stimulate the economies of the communities where we operate.

FQHCs are effective at managing patients with chronic conditions and have demonstrated that established many patients who actively participate in the patient-centered home have superior clinical outcomes and lower hospital stays. This contributes to a significant reduction in the total cost of care.

One of the strengths of FQHCs is the demonstrated ability to serve the underserved population - effectively. Our linguistic and cultural proficiency, coupled with a good understanding of the psycho-social issues and other barriers that our patients face when they try to access health and social services, has earned us the trust of our patients. With this trust, we are able to work effectively with the patients and convince them to seek appropriate levels of care in appropriate settings. When it is appropriate we direct them to the emergency department and advise them to follow up with a primary care visit after being discharged. We are working with one health plan and two hospitals to help streamline the transition from hospital to the primary care setting. We intend to replicate this approach with all health plans and hospitals that are willing to work with us to improve access to care for the patients we serve. This approach promises to improve outcomes while reducing costs and helping our patients to change behaviors regarding seeking health care.

Funding for the uninsured will enable us to extend these services to all of our patients. The State of Hawaii will benefit from the improvement in health and wellness of our communities, and from the attendant reduction in total cost of health care services.

In 2010 KPHC served 21,252 patients. The main ethnicities were: 45% Asian, 35 Pacific Islander, 7% Native Hawaiian. Patient income status was 76% below 100% Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPL), 12% over 200%FPL, and 3% unknown. We also serve 1,800 Homeless patients and provided housing assistance to 330 less fortunate members of our community.

KPHC served **4 out of every 10 uninsured patients** who sought primary care on Oahu in 2010. We project that should the number of uninsured in Hawaii grow by 4,500, we would see an increase of about 1,200 uninsured patients for a total of 10,400 uninsured patients seeking services at KPHC. Without additional State funding for the uninsured, we would not be able to meet the increase in demand for health care and social services.

We would like to point out that as a result of changes in circumstances, with time, a significant number of patients who are uninsured could become eligible for QUEST or QUEST Expanded benefits. If those patients do not receive appropriate primary care when they are uninsured, their conditions worsen, they experience preventable suffering, and they could end up with long hospital stays and high total costs. Investing in primary care for the uninsured makes good health and wellness sense. Investing in primary care for the uninsured it makes good business sense.

On behalf of KPHC and the community we serve, I strongly support HB 2116 to provide funding for quality, cost effective health care for Hawaii's uninsured through non-profit community health centers.



WAIKIKI HEALTH CENTER

REACHING OUT FROM THE HEART OF WAIKIKI.

L A T E

TO: Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

FROM: Sheila Beckham, RD, MPH
CEO
Waikiki Health Center

DATE: February 2, 2012

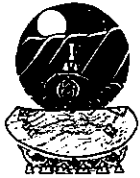
RE: HB2116 Relating to Health

On behalf of Waikiki Health Center I encourage you to provide adequate funding to enable Hawaii's federally qualified community health centers, to meet the growing healthcare needs of those individuals who are uninsured.

At Waikiki Health Center, the percent of visits from uninsured patients has increased from 24% in 2010 to 36% of all visits in 2011. Coupled with the narrower Medicaid eligibility requirements, it is estimated that WHC will see a reduction in patient service revenue of between \$230,000 and \$500,000. If uninsured funding is further reduced, WHC will realize far greater losses and will struggle to fulfill the federally mandated mission of "providing services regardless of an individual's ability to pay".

We understand that there are many demands on you from various segments of the community, but we strongly urge your support in providing funding for those without insurance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



LATE

Waimānalo Health Center Ola Hāloa The Sustaining of Life

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Committee on Health:

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2116 Relating to Health

February 3, 2012 at 9:00 a.m., Room 329
Submitted by Christina Lee, MD, Medical Director

Waimānalo Health Center (WHC) strongly supports HB 2116 which appropriates funds for the provision of health care services to uninsured persons through nonprofit Community Health Centers (CHCs).

As the vital health and social services safety net, CHCs are needed now more than ever because of the continued depressed economic conditions, growth in the uninsured rates, cuts in public services, etc. At WHC, a whopping 52% of new patients were uninsured in December 2011. With the State cutting benefits in the Medicaid program, we anticipate more people who will become uninsured. Since they cannot afford to pay for the actual cost of their care, funds are needed to supplement this cost.

We have done our part to implement cost-saving measures, improve efficiencies in our processes, increase provider productivity, and receive special purpose grants to cover the costs of this dramatic increase in the need for health services with dwindling support from the State of Hawaii. We have reached our maximum efficiency load with the limited resources that we have. To keep our doors open and continue our mission of service to our underserved community, we need the funds to care for those who are uninsured and who do not have the means to pay for health services.

It is critical that we continue to provide health care to the uninsured. The CHCs such as WHC, help keep people from using expensive emergency room services by providing preventive and primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care. In addition, good management and coordination of care to those with chronic conditions prevent expensive hospitalizations.

WHC, which serves a Medically Underserved Population (Native Hawaiians) in a Health Professions Shortage Area, is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system providing quality preventive and primary health care for Waimānalo, Ko'olaupoko, and beyond targeting the poor, uninsured, etc. We served 4,195 people in over 20,760 visits this past year; 34.5% of all our patients have no health insurance. I am proud of the high quality, personalized, and compassionate care that our doctors and staff provide to our patients.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our CHCs, our patients, and our communities. We urge your continued support of CHCs, WHC, and **HB2116** which provides vital funds needed for essential health services for the uninsured. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to show our full support of this measure. Aloha!

House Committee on Health
The Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

L A T E

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2116
Relating to Health
Submitted by David Derauf, Kokua Kalihi Valley

Friday, February 3, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 329

Kokua Kalihi Valley **strongly supports House Bill 2116**, which provides funding for uninsured patients at community health centers. This year we served more than 10,000 patients in our community, more than 36% of whom were uninsured. These patients mostly had complex medical conditions, and without access to primary care many of them would be in our emergency rooms and hospitals.

The uninsured fund allows us to keep our doors open to those without insurance, to provide them with high quality comprehensive medical care, and to prevent expensive tertiary care in the hospitals. Without this funding, the choice is simple; either we turn them away or we close our operations due to unsustainable losses. Clearly neither of those is a viable option for us, for Kalihi Valley, or for the State of Hawaii. Please move to pass this bill out of your committee for the health and well-being of our communities!

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:55 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2116 on 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for HLT 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2116

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 9:30 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2116 on 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM

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Testimony for HLT 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2116

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2012

Comments:



*West Hawaii
Community
Health Center*

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LATE

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2116
Relating to Health

Submitted by Richard Taaffe, Executive Director
Friday, February 3, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 329

The West Hawaii Community Health Center, which serves the 60,000+ residents of North and South Kona Districts of the Big Island, **strongly supports House Bill 2116**. This bill provides funding for uninsured patients at community health centers and places a priority of health and living well in our communities. Approximately 15% of our patients at the West Hawaii Community Health Center are currently uninsured. Another 60% are insured through Medicaid and only a step away from being uninsured, especially with the anticipated Medicaid cuts and changes in Medicaid eligibility. The uninsured fund becomes even more critical in light of the current economic condition and the State's budget crunch.

We urge you to pass this bill and thank you for the opportunity to testify