

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

THE SENATE

Committee on Health

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

Monday, March 19, 2012; 3:00 1:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2664, HD1
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE COORDINATION**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2664, HD1, which establishes a public-private partnership in a county with a population between 100,000 and 170,000 to develop an integrated system to deliver health care across the spectrum of care and particularly to address the current challenge in acute care.

We fully concur with the statement of the problem in Section 1 of the bill as well as the concept of a partnership between Hale Makua and Maui Memorial Medical Center to provide for a continuum of care that will be beneficial to both entities as well as patients needing both acute and long-term care. Maui Memorial Medical Center has long been struggling to cope with the problem of acute care beds being taken up by patients who should be in long-term care. The dilemma involves both fiscal concerns and appropriateness of the care setting.

A partnership between Maui Memorial Medical Center, which has expanded and enhanced its service to Maui county residents, and Hale Makua, which has solid expertise and capacity to provide long-term care, would be the ideal model to address the acute care crisis currently existing on Maui. Both are quality organizations that can benefit from state support to optimize their capabilities.

Another bill, S.B. 2935, is also being considered by the Legislature and will provide for Hale Makua to become a new corporation with Hawaii Health Systems Corporation as its sole member. Whatever partnership model is finally agreed to, the ILWU, as the collective bargaining agent for many employees at Hale Makua, trusts that the interests of the employees, most of them unionized at both Hale Makua and Maui Memorial Medical Center, will be considered in deliberations about the new partnership under which both organizations propose to address the acute care and long-term care crisis on Maui.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 2664, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.