

LATE Testimony

HB2676

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.
Report Title:	Human Services; Appropriation
Description:	Appropriates funds for DHS to restore staff positions on Maui, Lanai, and Molokai that were eliminated during the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Effective 7/1/12.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HUS, FIN
Introducer(s):	CARROLL

Honorable Representative John Mizuno and committee chairs,
Aloha and good morning!

My name is Dr Inam Rahman MD. I am here to testify in favor of house bill 2676, and I also am proposing an amendment to the bill.

As we know there is a severe lack of gastroenterology specialist doctors services in Hawaii AND more importantly, almost all the gastroenterologists are not participating with the State Medicaid and Quest programs. Patients on these public assistance programs are unable to get timely service as the wait is for months and months and many times they are unable to get access to any kind of care at all.

I have several patients who are suffering from gastric diseases and need a proper diagnostic work up including endoscopy, evaluation and treatment by a gastroenterologists.

I am certain that these patients will continue to suffer with constant abdominal pains, nausea and bloating sensation. Many of these patients, without timely intervention by a gastroenterologist, may end up with more serious stomach problems such as internal bleeding and even gastric perforation and death. In addition, these symptoms could also be related to cancer and precancerous conditions which ONLY may be curable if diagnosed early.

Almost all of these patients with abdominal pains and nausea frequently end up in emergency rooms where they are treated to give only temporary relief of their symptoms. This only adds more stress to our already overburdened emergency room and health care system.

Therefore I propose that Hawaii State should appropriate funds to hire one or two gastroenterologists who will see these patients.

I strongly believe that, by having state paid gastroenterologists, we can and will provide not only relief to our suffering fellow citizens but we also will save the state millions of dollars in the long run.

Respectfully,



Dr. Inam Rahman