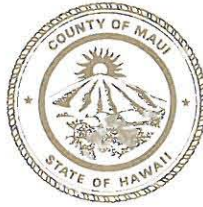


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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia

COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

TO: The Honorable David Ige, Chair
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alan Arakawa, Mayor *aa*
County of Maui

HEARING: Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday, February 24, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY OF MAUI COUNTY MAYOR ALAN ARAKAWA IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2935, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE COORDINATION**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of **SB2935**, which proposes to establish a public-private partnership between Maui Memorial Medical Center and Hale Makua Health Services to research, facilitate, develop, and implement a model and system of collaborative health care delivery in Maui County.

My administration supports this measure for the following reasons:

1. We understand that Maui's population is rapidly growing, yet the island has limited health care infrastructure. The existing health care in Maui County is fragmented and comprised of independent providers with little coordination. This lack of coordinated care results in an inefficient delivery system across the continuum of care.
2. Post acute-care options on Maui are limited, making it challenging for families needing such care but have limited resources.
3. These challenges in Maui County relating to coordination and health care delivery at multiple levels of care have risen to near, or at, crisis levels. An immediate and bold response is necessary so that the current crisis is not exacerbated.
4. A poor payer mix makes it difficult for healthcare facilities to be financially viable. This proposed partnership would strengthen both, while providing access to much-needed health services for Maui County's people.

For these reasons, my administration and I **strongly support HB2935**.