



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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Email: FINCommittee@capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: Wednesday, April 4, 2012 @ 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room: 308

DATE: April 4, 2012

TO: **House Committee on Finance**
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

From: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

Re: Support for SB 2939 SD1 HD1 Relating to the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii

Honorable Chairs and members of the House Committee on Finance, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in Hawaii.

We strongly support this bill that would authorize the issuance of SPRBs of up to \$80,000,000, for St. Francis Healthcare System to construct healthcare facilities.

As you may already know, St. Francis has a long-standing tradition of contributing to the community in Hawaii. Their historical legacy began in 1883 when King Kalakaua personally invited them to come to the islands and provide care and comfort for patients with Hansen's disease.

The legacy of caring established by Blessed Marianne, and the visionaries who followed her, is continued today by the Sisters of St. Francis and St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii. We are proud of the continued efforts of the Sisters in Hawaii and look forward to the Canonization of Hawaii's second Saint!

St. Francis Healthcare Systems of Hawaii touches the lives of more than 90,000 patients a year. They are able to accomplish this because they continue to operate St. Francis Hospice, St. Francis Home Care, Franciscan Adult Day Care, St. Francis Health Services for Seniors and many other services. Currently they have plans to expand their outpatient palliative care program and build the St. Francis Intergenerational Center (a combined pre-school and adult day care.)

The issuance of these bonds will help St. Francis Healthcare systems continue to provide the outstanding care and services that have served this community so well.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.