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Tuesday, March 1, 2011

To: The Honorable David Y. Ige
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: 'Ohana Health Plan

Re: Senate Bill 425, Senate Draft 2-Relating to Medicaid

Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:20 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211

Since February 2009, 'Ohana Health Plan has provided services under the Hawai'i QUEST Expanded Access (QExA) program. 'Ohana is managed by a local team of experienced health care professionals who embrace cultural diversity, advocate preventative care and facilitate communications between members and providers. Our philosophy is to place members and their families at the center of the health care continuum.

'Ohana Health Plan is offered by WellCare Health Insurance of Arizona, Inc. WellCare provides managed care services exclusively for government-sponsored health care programs serving approximately 2.3 million Medicaid and Medicare members nationwide. 'Ohana is able to take the national experience in providing an 'Ohana care model that addresses local members' healthcare and health coordination needs.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit our comments on Senate Bill 425, Senate Draft 2-Relating to Medicaid. We limit our comments in support to Section 3 of this bill, which establishes a Joint Legislative Task Force of Medicaid.

Section 3 of this bill will lend stronger legislative support to an ad hoc working group that was established during the last legislative session in response to the Department of Human Services' proposal to delay payments to their five contracted QUEST health care plans by 3-4 months. The Medicaid Shortfall Coalition has been actively meeting since that time and is committed to continuing our work in order to ensure that health care becomes a higher priority as we move forward.

We are also committed to working together proactively to find solutions to reign in costs in our state's Medicaid program, as well as find new ways to bring in additional revenue for the sake of health care for our state's most vulnerable population.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on this measure.