

**SB1306**

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY**

**From:** [Ian Takashiba](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** S.B. 1306 - strong opposition  
**Date:** Saturday, February 09, 2013 8:40:46 PM

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The Senate  
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Regular Session of 2013  
Committee on Health

February 13, 2013

S.B. 1306 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee on Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition** of the language in S.B. 1306, which permits the regional systems of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) and their health facilities to transition to non-public status.

On the Big Island, we do not have the luxury of being able to choose which hospital we want to go to due to the lack of health facilities, lack of doctors and most importantly, the sheer size of the island. However the current structure of HHSC helps offset that problem by ensuring that vital services are provided to everyone as needed. This guarantees that nobody is turned away from necessary health care services.

Allowing Banner to take over the Big Island hospital system is extremely risky. As a private entity, they can decide to stop providing essential services because it is not profitable, and we would have no way to stop them. With no other option for health care services, this could result in sickness or possibly even death for many in our local communities.

Despite Banner's non-profit status, it appears that Banner is a for-profit business with no vested interest, care or concern for the Big Island communities. With so many uncertainties and no guarantees, I urge you not to gamble with our safety and more importantly our lives. I strongly oppose the passage of S.B 1306. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Aloha,

Ian Takashiba  
Big Island resident

**From:** [Joan Hiyakumoto](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for S.B. 1306  
**Date:** Saturday, February 09, 2013 9:45:05 PM

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The Senate  
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Regular Session of 2013  
Committee on Health

February 13, 2013

S.B. 1306 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee on Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of the language in S.B. 1306, which permits the regional systems of the Hawaii health systems corporation and their health facilities to transition to non-public status.

My name is Joan Hiyakumoto, and I worked as a Secretary II for the Kula Hospital on Maui, for eight years. Later I transferred to the DHS, Maui Police Department, and the Department of Agriculture giving twenty-five years of civil service. As a retired government employee, I dedicated my career to public service. Banner Health is a national nonprofit hospital system that only wants private employees. If they take over, they will most likely terminate all employees in the Maui Memorial Health System and re-hire only those who pass pre-employment requirements. Banner Health does not believe in unions, and the civil servant service status and benefits will be lost for the present state employees. With regards to its impact in the community, if Banner Health deems services unfeasible to maintain or lack clinical quality, they will cut those vital services and possibly close facilities that our community depends on. For example, Banner Health has minimal experience with services such as long-term care that are currently provided to our community. Additionally, with Banner Health, Hawaii taxpayers' dollars will be supporting and funding a mainland company to provide Hawaii health services. It deeply troubles me that the Legislature is considering this partnership. Maui Memorial Hospital has always been an attraction

for profit and non-profit making entities. The hospital funds Kula and Lanai Hospitals, which are critical to the Maui community health system. Loss of these three hospitals would cripple health care delivery in Maui County, if Banner does not make a profit and withdraws its interest.

I strongly oppose the passage of S.B. 1306. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hiyakumoto

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Joan Hiyakumoto