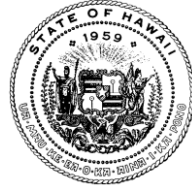


# **SB 1336**

Measure Title: RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.  
Report Title: Rural Health Clinic; Critical Access Hospital; Kahuku Medical Center  
Description: Designates the Kahuku medical center as a rural health clinic and critical access hospital.  
Companion:  
Package: None  
Current Referral: HMS/HTH, WAM  
Introducer(s): HEE, GREEN



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## Senate Committees on Human Services and Health

### SB 1336, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health

February 8, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) appreciates the intent of this measure to  
2 amend the Hawaii Revised Statutes to designate Kahuku Medical Center as a rural hospital for the  
3 purposes of maintaining its critical access hospital designation. However, the Department recommends  
4 amending SB1336 with clarifying language to allow Kahuku Hospital to retain its Critical Access  
5 Hospital designation.

6 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to maintain Kahuku Medical Center's critical  
8 access hospital designation. The main benefit of having this federal designation for Kahuku Medical  
9 Center is their ability to receive enhanced (cost-based) reimbursement from the Centers for Medicare  
10 and Medicaid Services. These reimbursements ensure access to healthcare for rural communities. One of  
11 the requirements for being a critical access hospital is that it be located in a designated rural area or that  
12 the facility be designated as a rural hospital by the State. The measure refers to Kahuku Medical Center  
13 as a "rural health clinic" and a "critical access hospital". These are designations that can only be made  
14 by the federal government. Kahuku Medical Center is currently a federally designated critical access  
15 hospital. However, it is not a federally designated rural health clinic. This function is currently being

1 fulfilled by the Koolauloa Community Health and Wellness Center. What is needed is for the State to  
2 designate Kahuku Medical Center as a “rural hospital.”

3 The Department of Health recommends the following amendments to clarify the terminology of  
4 this measure:

5 Page 1, Line 11: Strike “health clinic” and replace with “hospital”

6 Page 1, Lines 17-18: Strike “health clinic and approved as a critical access”

7 Page 1, Line 18: Strike “health clinic designation”

8 Page 2, Line 1: Strike “and critical access”; Strike “approval” and replace with “designation”

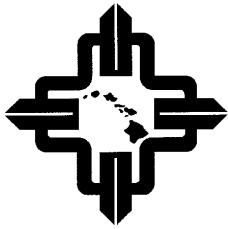
9 Page 2, Line 2: Strike “and approval”

10 Page 3, Report Title: Strike “Health Clinic” and replace with “Hospital”

11 Page 3, Description: Strike “health clinic and critical access”

12 The Department of Health feels these changes will clarify the intent of the bill and will allow  
13 Kahuku Hospital to maintain its critical access hospital designation.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## **HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**

C O R P O R A T I O N

*Quality Healthcare For All*

### **SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair**

**Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair**

### **SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

**Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair**

**Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 8, 2013 2:05 p.m.**

**Conference Room 229**

**Hawaii State Capitol**

**Testimony supporting SB 1336, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.  
Designates the Kahuku medical center as a rural health clinic and critical access  
hospital.**

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) **strongly supports** SB 1336, which will assist Kahuku Medical Center (Kahuku) in retaining its federal critical access hospital status. The federal government recently determined that Oahu does not contain any “rural areas” for purposes of critical access designation. However, the State Legislature can designate a hospital as being a rural hospital. It is our understanding that this measure is needed in order to allow Kahuku to obtain rural hospital status, which will result in Kahuku being able to retain its critical access hospital status, and thereby continue to receive better reimbursement rates in federal medical programs, such as Medicare. Kahuku, like all of the small rural hospitals, struggles financially. The legislature has subsidized Kahuku for the past several years by appropriating \$1.5 M in general fund support. Without the critical access hospital designation, Kahuku’s deficits will increase.

This measure **requests** that Kahuku be designated a “rural health clinic and critical access hospital.” We defer to the Department of Health’s suggestion that the bill be

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[www.hhsc.org](http://www.hhsc.org) <<http://www.hhsc.org>>

modified to correctly designate Kahuku as a “rural hospital”, instead of the language in current version of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in strong support of this measure.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator Josh Green, Chair

February 8, 2013 at 2:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

**Supporting SB 1336: Relating to Health Care**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 40,000 people. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of 1336, which designates Kahuku Medical Center as a rural health clinic for the purpose of maintaining its critical access hospital (CAH) designation.

The primary benefit of the CAH program is to exempt designated facilities from the prospective payment system (PPS) because those payments are below the actual costs of care. Instead, CAH facilities receive cost-based reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid. This enables small rural hospitals to:

- (1) Maintain primary and emergency health care services;
- (2) Offer a range of health care services that meet the needs of the community citizens; and
- (3) Remain financially viable.

CAH designation is especially critical to Kahuku Medical Center because six years ago it was planning to close due financial problems. However, it affiliated with the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation and its public hospitals. Although closure was averted, Kahuku Medical Center continues to face fiscal challenges. Furthermore, the CAH designation of Kahuku Medical Center has been recently threatened. This bill is designed to ensure that Kahuku Medical Center maintains its designation as a CAH so that it can continue to operate. This will enable the residents of Oahu's isolated North Shore community to have continued timely access to hospital care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1336.

Written Testimony Presented Before the

HMS / HTS

Friday, February 8, 2013, 2:05 pm

By

Stephany Vaioleti, Administrator, Kahuku Medical Center

SB 1336 Relating to Health Care

Chair Oakland, Vice Chair Green, Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of this bill, SB 1336. This bill is to maintain Kahuku Medical Center's (KMC) Critical Access Hospital (CAH) designation as KMC needs either to be in a rural area or be designated a "rural hospital". The federal government recently determined that Oahu does not contain any "rural areas" for purposes of critical access designation. Fortunately, the State Legislature can designate a hospital as being a rural hospital. Without this critical access hospital designation, KMC's deficits will increase.

The current bill requests that KMC be designated a "rural health clinic and critical access hospital." KMC **defers to the Department of Health's suggested changes** that the bill be modified to correctly designate KMC as a "rural hospital".

KMC plays a vital role in addressing the healthcare needs of the Koolauloa and North Shore communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HPCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**Senate Committee on Human Services**

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Health**

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of SB 1336**

**Relating to Health Care**

**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer**

**February 8, 2013, 2:05 PM, Room 229**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association, which represents federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports the intent of Senate Bill 1336 to ensure access to acute, long-term, and emergency health care services for Oahu's North Shore residents and visitors. However, we must oppose Senate Bill 1336 as written because only the federal government has the authority to designate rural health clinics. We support language proposed by the Department of Health that addresses this legal issue while still preserving Kahuku Medical Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





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Chief Financial Officer

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
HMS / HTS

Friday, February 8, 2013, 2:05 pm

By

Ana Jimenez-McMillan, Board Member Ko'olauloa Community Health and  
Wellness Center  
SB 1336 Relating to Health Care

Chair Oakland, Vice Chair Green, Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition** of senate bill 1336 as it is currently written designating Kahuku Medical Center as a Rural Health Clinic.

The Ko'olauloa Community Health Center which is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides primary care in the Ko'olauloa Community is in **strong support of the changes** made by Scott Daniels with the Department of Health whose specific request is as follows:

- Page 1, Line 11: Strike "health clinic" and replace with "hospital"
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- Page 3, Description: Strike "health clinic and critical access"

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Benjamin F. Pettus, CEO Ko'olauloa Community Health and Wellness Center  
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By

Oreta Tupola, Chief Operations Officer Ko'olauloa Community Health and  
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Maria Pacheco, Board Chair Ko'olauloa Community Health and Wellness  
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Judy Fomin, Board VP Ko'olauloa Community Health and Wellness Center  
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Irene Carpenter, Board Treasurer Ko'olauloa Community Health and Wellness  
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By

Joe Wilson, Board Member Ko'olauloa Community Health and Wellness  
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By

Parsha Oliva, Board Member Ko'olauloa Community Health and Wellness  
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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sicadiz@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:sicadiz@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1336 on Feb 8, 2013 14:05PM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 07, 2013 1:47:50 PM

---

**SB1336**

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for HMS/HTH on Feb 8, 2013 14:05PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sarah	Individual	Support	No

Comments: i support the designation of Kahuku Medical Center as a Rural Health Clinic

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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