



Hawai'i Dietetic Association

 an affiliate of the  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

**Re: HB 2430**

In support of bill "Making an Appropriation for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program"

Dear Legislators,

I am writing you as President of the Hawai'i Dietetic Association (HDA). We have over 300 members in the state of Hawai'i including Guam and Saipan. The HDA is an affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Our members are the trusted and credible source of food and nutrition information.

HDA supports HB 2430 which would appropriate funds to support the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Fruits and vegetables provide important nutrients, can help to prevent certain cancers, prevent unintended weight gain and can help to lower cholesterol and blood pressure levels. This important program is vital to ensure that our low-income seniors, who often face food security issues, have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Most sincerely yours,

Sally Belles, RDN, CDE

President, Hawaii Dietetic Association

[sallysmiles@me.com](mailto:sallysmiles@me.com), (808) 753-1472.

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair



Simon Che

Friday, February 21, 2014

Support for H.B. No. 2430, H.D. 1, Relating To Health

I am a medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. For the past three years, I have dedicated my time towards service of the homeless community as a member of the Hawai'i Homeless Outreach and Medical Education (H.O.M.E.) Project, a non-profit organization committed towards providing free medical care for the homeless and medically underserved of Oahu. As an individual, I strongly support H.B. No. 2430, H.D. 1, Relating To Health, which would appropriate funds to provide primary medical, dental and behavioral healthcare to the uninsured and underinsured.

As a part of the Hawai'i H.O.M.E. Project, I have seen many individuals facing socioeconomic as well as medical hardships. Because of their circumstances, homeless peoples are much more prone to medical disabilities. Furthermore, as a result of poor access to healthcare and substandard health care, many conditions are left untreated and progressively worsen. I believe that healthcare should be accessible to all individuals regardless of socioeconomic situation.

Even though there are non-profit organizations pledged towards providing primary care to the medically underserved, access to health care for the homeless is still lacking. More so, the access towards mental health and dental health are in serious decline are in great demand.

By providing funding for primary medical, dental and behavioral health care to the medically underserved and uninsured, we are providing an opportunity for peoples to improve their lives in the face of hardships. I urge the committee to pass H.B. No. 2430, H.D. 1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.