

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 17 2016

RE: S.R. No. 8
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,
to which was referred S.R. No. 8 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WAHIAWA CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH TO
PROVIDE PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE SERVICES TO THE MEDICALLY
UNDERSERVED POPULATION OF WAHIAWA AND ITS SURROUNDING RURAL
COMMUNITIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to express support
for the establishment of the Wahiawa Center for Community Health
to provide primary healthcare services to the medically
underserved population of Wahiawa and its surrounding rural
communities.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health, Hawai'i Primary Care Association,
Wahiawa Community and Business Association, AlohaCare, 'Ohana
Health Plan, Faith Action for Community Equity, Hawaii Association
of Health Plans, and seventeen individuals.

Your Committee finds that approximately 43,000 individuals
live in the Wahiawa community, of which fifty-four percent are
living in a United States Department of Health and Human Services-
designated Medically Underserved Population. This designation
reflects the inadequate number of primary care clinicians
practicing in Wahiawa and the area's poor socio-economic
indicators. Access and availability of healthcare services in



Wahiawa is diminishing at a rapid pace, in part due to the scarce number of physicians available to serve the community, are ready to retire or currently working at maximum patient capacity, are not accepting new patients, limit the type of insurance accepted, and cannot serve all of the uninsured who are unable to pay in full.

Your Committee further finds that community organizing and outreach revealed the definite need for a community health center, and the Wahiawa Center for Community Health was established to meet that need. The Wahiawa Center for Community Health was incorporated on January 25, 2012, and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity with the express purpose of creating a federally qualified health center in Wahiawa to bring affordable, high quality, and accessible care to the people of Wahiawa, regardless of ability to pay and on a sliding discount scale. The establishment of the Wahiawa Center for Community Health is in the public interest and for the public health, safety, and general welfare to assist in the improvement of the healthcare system for residents of the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments, including to its title, for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 8, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means, in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 8, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health,




ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
CPH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SR 8	CPH, WAM	3-14-16		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	/			
ESPERO, Will	/			
IHARA, Jr., Les				/
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	/			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.				/
SLOM, Sam	/			
TOTAL	5			2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes