



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health  
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair, Committee on Health  
Members, Committee on Health

From: Paula Yoshioka, Senior Vice President, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: March 23, 2016

Hrg: House Committee on Health Hearing; Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 10:15 am, Room 329

**Re: Support for HCR56/HR 23, Expressing strong support for the establishment of the Wahiawa Center for Community Health to provide primary medical care services to the medically underserved population in Wahiawa and its surrounding rural communities.**

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My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's). I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR56 and HR 23, which expresses strong support for the establishment of the Wahiawa Center for Community Health.

Designated under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a Medically Underserved Population, the Wahiawa community would greatly benefit from the presence of a community health center. Primary care services play a critical role in managing chronic health conditions and preventing emergency visits. Queen's strongly believes in providing greater access to health care services and supporting community-based resources at every stage of the continuum of care.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to support this important measure.

*The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**To:** HLTtestimony  
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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HR23 on Mar 24, 2016 10:15AM\*

**HR23**

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 24, 2016 10:15AM in Conference Room 329

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victor K. Ramos     | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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**HR23**

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 24, 2016 10:15AM in Conference Room 329

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Javier Mendez-Alvarez | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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**HR23**

Submitted on: 3/23/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 24, 2016 10:15AM in Conference Room 329

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keolamau Yee        | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: HR23/ HCR56 Related to establishing the Wahiawa center for community Health Hearing Date: 10:15 AM Thursday March 24, 2016. Keolamau Yee University of Hawaii Manoa- John A. Burns School of Medicine- Student As a first year medical student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, I am writing this testimony to express several comments in favor of HR23, which addresses the issue of creating a community health center in the Wahiawa area. Like many regions of our island home, Wahiawa has an inadequate number of physicians to serve the patient population living in that area. Additionally, the socioeconomic standing of a large portion of the patient population in Wahiawa poses its own hurdles to employing and retaining high quality physicians and other medical professionals at such a center. The demand for an invaluable community resource- such as a health center- has never been greater, and the needs of this population will only grow in the following decades. The rich plantation and migrant history that Wahiawa has, also brings with it unique health issues and barriers to care. Very few Wahiawa locals access care in Wahiawa or see a medical professional on a consistent basis. These types of habits are not conducive to the sustained health of any community, and instead foster the development of chronic conditions that further burden our health care systems. In attempting to address such issues, a multi-disciplinary health center would be the most effective and impactful approach. More importantly, taking a proactive stance on providing quality primary care services to these populations will help to offset the future mammoth costs of caring for many individuals long term. Investing in the health of this particular Oahu area will pay out greater returns in the long run. Creating a community health center that serves the Wahiawa area will also help support a healthier next generation by helping young children get great medical care early on. Good pediatric care for local children in Wahiawa will likely encourage better school performance, and will hopefully produce healthier adolescents. Funds allocated to such a far reaching project would hugely impact the lives and well-being of many individuals, and I personally couldn't imagine investing in something more worthwhile than that. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.

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