

# SB2064

Measure Title:	RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES.
Report Title:	Leahi Hospital; Maluhia Hospital; Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds to restore staff and long-term care services at Leahi and Maluhia hospitals within the Hawaii health systems corporation.
Companion:	<a href="#">HB1881</a>
Package:	Kupuna Caucus
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, GALUTERIA, HARIMOTO, IHARA, NISHIHARA, SHIMABUKURO, Kidani



**OAHU REGION**  
**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

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February 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 229  
Hawaii State Capitol

To: The Hon. Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Hon. Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Derek Akiyoshi  
Oahu Region CEO  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Re: Testimony in Support of Premise

SB 2064, Relating to Long-Term Care Services

We would like to thank Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Kidani, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health for providing us with the opportunity to testify in support of the premise of SB 2064.

As a preliminary matter, the Oahu Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (hereinafter, the “Oahu Region”) is very grateful for the independent efforts of the Protect Leahi and Maluhia ‘Ohana (hereinafter, the “Ohana”). The time and commitment that this grassroots group of families and local community members have dedicated in support of the Oahu Region has been both humbling and inspiring as we try to sustain our role as an important safety-net for long-term care on Oahu.

During this legislative session, the foremost priority for the Oahu Region has been to preserve the long-term care services currently being provided at our two facilities. As is customary in budgetary requests for state agencies, the Oahu Region submitted its budgetary needs for FY17 to the Corporation for inclusion in the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (hereinafter, “HHSC”) system-wide request for General Fund appropriations. Given that the Oahu Region’s priority is to preserve current services, the Oahu Region’s FY17 budgetary needs only reflected the minimum amount necessary to sustain our operations without further cuts for another year.

Having read the proposed language of SB 2064, it appears that the Ohana is seeking funding – beyond the formal HHSC request of \$21 million system-wide – so that the Oahu Region will be enabled to reopen the seventy-six (76) resident beds that were closed during FY16 as a result of



## **OAHU REGION HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

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budgetary restraints. While it is true that the sum of approximately \$10 million would easily cover the costs of reopening and operating the closed beds in FY17, it is important to note, however, that this amount would only do so for FY17. In other words, if the Oahu Region reopened the closed beds, such beds could only stay open if the legislature was committed to appropriating the costs of the reopened beds in perpetuity. Given projected increases to labor costs and all-but-certain decreases to reimbursements for Medicaid patients – who comprise approximately ninety percent (90%) of the residents in the Oahu Region – the Oahu Region’s future requests for appropriations to fund the costs of the reopened beds would likely grow exponentially.

In light of the foregoing, the Oahu Region does not believe that it may be in the best interests of our community and taxpayers to reopen the previously closed beds at this time. We are aware that the state of our economy is currently speculative at best and, as such, there is no definitive way of knowing that any reopened beds could stay open. The last thing the Oahu Region would like to do is give future residents the hope of an open bed only to later dash such hope by closing the bed due to insufficient funds. Rather, the Oahu Region believes that the local community would be best served through continued funding of its existing operations (as requested through HHSC’s system-wide efforts) and potential future funding of other important safety-net services that are currently being developed by the Oahu Region and are anticipated to be more cost-effective with greater outreach.

As you are aware, the current actual cost of inpatient care per resident per day is approximately \$400 and the attendant Medicaid reimbursement rate is roughly \$200 per resident per day. Although the services provided are important to our community, the losses that are regularly incurred to provide such services make it simply unfeasible at this juncture for restoration or expansion. Nevertheless, the Oahu Region has been exploring the development and expansion of safety-net services – other than residential long-term care – that would enable us to reach more of our vulnerable population in a more sustainable fashion.

For example, the Oahu Region is contemplating the establishment of a memory-care outpatient program at our Leahi facility that would give participants focused attention from staff trained specifically in the treatment and management of dementia. Given the increasing need for this service, we anticipate that the Oahu Region will be able to serve a more diversified group of participants with payment sources that expand beyond Medicaid. We believe that, with the mix of revenues from both private payors and Medicaid, the memory-care outpatient program would be more sustainable than our inpatient long-term care operations and could reach a greater number of people.



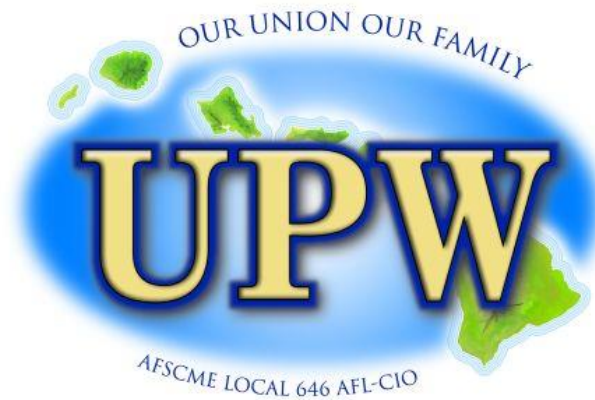
## **OAHU REGION HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

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Likewise, the Oahu Region is also looking to promote and expand our Geriatric Clinics at both Maluhia and Leahi Hospital. Given that a few local geriatric clinics have recently closed their operations, there is clearly a community need for this service. This need is especially important for our elderly Medicaid community because many of the geriatric clinics still in existence rarely accept Medicaid patients. The Oahu Region believes that expansion of our Geriatric Clinics would enable us to provide a valuable service to our elderly population in a way that is more sustainable than inpatient long-term care. This is because, similar to the planned memory-care program, our reimbursements for patients who utilize the Geriatric Clinics come from both private payors and Medicaid.

In short, the Oahu Region supports the premise of SB 2064 to the extent that it calls for legislative support of the Oahu Region and its commitment to providing quality care for our local elders. Due to the uncertainty of our economy and the exponentially increasing costs of caring for inpatient Medicaid recipients, however, the Oahu Region must take the position that such support should not be directed towards reopening our previously closed beds. Rather, the Oahu Region respectfully requests that the legislature simply view the overwhelming support the Oahu Region has received for SB 2064 as a testament to the value the Oahu Region brings to our local community. While the Oahu Region is not requesting additional funding for FY17 through SB 2064, we hope that this honorable Committee and the collective legislature will take the Ohana's support for the Oahu Region to heart when considering HHSC's system-wide budgetary request for FY17. The Oahu Region additionally hopes that the Ohana's support will be considered in future HHSC budgetary requests as we continue to develop and expand more sustainable operations such as the memory-care program and Geriatric Clinics.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the premise of SB 2064 and express the very sincere and heartfelt appreciation we have for the Protect Leahi and Maluhia 'Ohana. We will continue to put forth our utmost efforts to preserve and sustainably expand our quality safety-net operations for the community.



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE  
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair (CPH)  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, (CPH)

DATE OF HEARING: Tuesday, February 9, 2016  
TIME OF HEARING: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL SB2064 RELATING TO LONG TERM CARE SERVICES**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, and AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW strongly supports SB2064 Relating to Long Term Care Services .This bill is one of the most important of health bill to save the operations of Leahi and Maluhia hospitals. By

appropriating some \$10,300,000 to both hospitals for FY2016 the state is fulfilling its moral and constitutional commitment to provide a safety net to the people of Hawaii, especially those in need of long term care and who are supported by Medicare and Medicaid.

The findings of the legislature are both compelling and urgent; those that are unable to help care for themselves medically need Leahi and Maluhia hospitals. The funding for operations and personnel must be restored and service levels increased to meet the needs of our people especially, the elderly.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of SB2064.

Tuesday, February 09, 2016  
9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 229  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

SB 2064 Relating to Long--Term Care Services TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Chair, Baker, Co-Chair Kidani, and members of this Committee,

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide personal testimony in SUPPORT of this bill to repair the safety net for frail and low income elderly at Leahi and Maluhia hospitals.

As a gerontologist and family caregiver for my 90 year old father, it is critically important to maintain this facility. It not only provides critical geriatric services, but serves as a training facility for future geriatricians and gerontological care workers by one of the top Geriatrics program (JABSOM, UHM) in this country. These future geriatric care professionals will model key health care delivery for high quality of care at the end of life. This is critical because Hawaii has the oldest population in the U.S., but that boomer elderly will compose about 33% of Hawaii in the near future. Gerontological education in Hawaii must rapidly increase the training of many more geriatric professionals now and long into the future.

The "Silver Tsunami" is upon us and if we further lose Hawaii's ability to train more geriatric and gerontological staff at Leahi and Maluhia hospitals, Hawaii will not be able to fulfil our societal and cultural obligations to care for our frail elders.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB 2064  
Barbara Yee  
[dragonboomer@aol.com](mailto:dragonboomer@aol.com)

HI State Plan on Aging 15-17  
[http://www.hawaiidrc.org/Portals/\\_AgencySite/State%20Plan/HI%20State%20Plan%20on%20Aging%202015-17.PDF](http://www.hawaiidrc.org/Portals/_AgencySite/State%20Plan/HI%20State%20Plan%20on%20Aging%202015-17.PDF)

Alzheimer Hawaii 2025 12-13  
[http://www.hawaiidrc.org/Portals/\\_AgencySite/docs/ADRD\\_rev.pdf](http://www.hawaiidrc.org/Portals/_AgencySite/docs/ADRD_rev.pdf)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [cyo777777@gmail.com](mailto:cyo777777@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2064 on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 08, 2016 9:01:17 AM

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**SB2064**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carol	Protect Leahi & Maluhia Ohana	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! I am a member of Protect Leahi & Maluhia Ohana. A local all-volunteer grassroots network of families and supporters – that developed in response to the budget crisis impacting the public safety net that Leahi & Maluhia hospitals provide. We are in desperate need of funding to keep Leahi Hospital & Maluhia operating. My dad is a resident on the 4th floor at Leahi which they are planning to close in October. Without funding these facilities will close one floor at a time until everything is shut down. These are the only 2 state run facilities that accept Medicare & Medicaid patients. My dad has served in the Korean War and worked hard his whole life paying his share of taxes. It is so sad that he has to suffer instead of being able to live comfortably during his later years of life. Shutting the floor will disrupt the bonds formed between the residents and staff as they will be moved to another floor or to a different facility. Some of the staff will be laid off. I cannot express how critical it is to keep these facilities operating. Our seniors deserve to live their final years with dignity and respect. We support SB 2064 as a positive step towards repairing the damage caused to an important public hospital safety net. Sincerely, Carol Oyama

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



**From:** [Carol Wakayama](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony SB 2064 Support  
**Date:** Sunday, February 07, 2016 3:42:55 PM

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Ladies and gentlemen - I am honored & humbled to send the following e-mail in support of SB 2064.

Although I do not personally know anyone who is currently receiving services & care at Leahi and Maluhia, I am aware that the services that the staff provide - are priceless & life saving.

Often, I hear elected/government officials very freely say that they care about our kupuna. I want to trust that officials are also sensitive about proper & quality care for the elderly. I am hoping that you will honor the accomplishments, lives & spirits of Hawaii's elderly & their families.

Please continue to allow the Leahi and Maluhia facilities (and their staff) provide respectful & quality care and services to our elderly and their families. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on SB 2064.

Carol Wakayama  
1011 Prospect Street #804  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [Eudora Oue-Craig](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony SB 2064 Support  
**Date:** Sunday, February 07, 2016 4:34:48 PM

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I am in support of SB 2064. My aunt was recently displaced by the cutbacks at Leahi hospital. Luckily she was able to secure a spot in another room at the same facility. She did lose the superb staff that was helping with her day to day care. I urge all to support our seniors. They deserve help. I urge all lawmakers to consider the voices of all families of the state.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016  
9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 229

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

From: Joan Watanabe  
[cole-cali@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:cole-cali@hawaii.rr.com)

Re: SB 2064 Relating to Long-Term Care Services  
Testimony in Support

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This is a heartfelt plea asking you and your colleagues NOT to turn your backs on Leahi Hospital.

My grandfather was a resident at Leahi back in 2001. He was a healthy independent man, until he fell and fractured his back at home. He was admitted to an acute hospital and then to another nursing home facility, where he was NOT happy at all. He was finally transferred to Leahi, where he commented to me (through his Japanese and broken English) how happy and content he was at Leahi. Really! He was especially glad that my mom (his only child) and dad could visit him daily since they lived close by. Throughout my grandpa's stay, my mom and dad commented numerous times how much they appreciated the care that the staff provided. My mom said that there was NO WAY that she could have taken such good care of my grandpa on her own.

My mom, too, (at age 84) eventually resided at Leahi last year for 2 weeks as a rehab patient to have therapy done for her broken femur. Like my grandpa, my mom was so happy and thankful to be admitted to Leahi. In fact, before being discharged from acute care, she adamantly requested to be admitted to Leahi for rehab. She loved the rehab staff and even raved about the curry stew she had for dinner. Plus, because we all lived close by, my sisters, my dad (with his walker) and I could visit her every day.

Last year, my dad entered ER multiple times. On one occasion, he needed to be admitted in the morning but because no beds were available, ended up waiting OVERNIGHT in the post-op area. Think of how grave the situation will be if patients are waiting to be discharged from acute care to be placed into long-term care facilities but there's no where available. Or no one will accept them, especially Medicaid patients. Acute care patients will just have to wait (like my dad) until beds open up. Leahi Hospital is a "safety net" facility and accepts patients that other facilities do not want to accept. This is a dire situation which will affect all acute hospitals. Think about having full or overflowing capacity because you're unable to discharge patients to long-term care facilities. Many long-term care facilities don't want Medicaid patients; they prefer private pay patients. Long-term care is extremely costly. Unbelievable still is that Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements keep decreasing. Oahu's population continues to age and grow. The "silver tsunami" (aging population explosion) is just around the corner.

Please, I urge you lawmakers to look ahead to the future of Hawaii. We need to take care of our kupuna NOW! Don't wait until the situation explodes and becomes harder to manage. We need to nip this in the bud. We need you to address the impact of the budget crisis on the statewide public hospital safety net system TODAY. Not next year or in 10 years. We need to do this NOW! Please support SB 2064.

Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2016  
9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 229

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair and Members of the  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and  
Health

From: Joyce Mikami  
Protect Leahi & Maluhia ‘Ohana

Re: S.B. 2064, Relating to Long-Term Care Services

As a family member of the Protect Leahi & Maluhia ‘Ohana, I am urging the passing of S.B. 2064 to resolve the budget crisis currently occurring to sustain the public hospital where my 98-year old dad resides.

The care my dad receives is critical to his health issues, and he thoroughly enjoys and participates in the activities provided to all the residents. While my family would prefer to care for him at home, we are also aware that we do not have the capability and skill to give him the type of care he requires. Leahi Hospital is providing him the support he requires. Without their support and skilled/professional service, our family will face a major dilemma. We need to ensure Leahi is kept intact and can continue to provide these long-term care services to our kupunas who so deserve this special quality of life.

I hope this Committee will consider the impact this budget crisis could have on all the families at Leahi and Maluhia Hospitals. I urge you and all lawmakers to understand our position and the impact it will have on our public hospital system.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2016  
9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 229

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

From: Laurie Narahara  
Protect Leahi and Maluhia `Ohana

Re: SB 2064 Relating to Long-Term Care Services  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

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I am a member of Protect Leahi and Maluhia `Ohana – a local all-volunteer grassroots network of families and supporters – that developed in response to the budget crisis impacting the public safety net that Leahi & Maluhia hospitals provide.

I am very concerned about the needs of our kupuna as everyone should be. We all will age and we all have aging family members and friends who may one day need the type of care provided at Leahi and Maluhia. There are people who are fortunate to have the resources which will enable them to choose where live when living at home is no longer a viable option. The reality is, many people from all walks of life outlive their resources and have no choice but to rely on government to support safety net services for their continued care.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2064.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016  
9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 229

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

From: Lee Hanta  
Protect Leahi & Maluhia 'Ohana  
lhanta@yahoo.com

Re: SB 2064 Relating to Long-Term Care Services  
Testimony in Support

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I am a member of Protect Leahi & Maluhia 'Ohana; a local all-volunteer network of families and supporters that came about in response to the budget crisis impacting the public safety net facilities on Oahu, Leahi Hospital and Maluhia, as well a concerned citizen of the community.

I have been associated with the long term care population crisis on Oahu for at least the past 10 years. Leahi and Maluhia mainly have geriatric/fragile patients that are on Medicaid (public assistance) insurance. The reimbursement for a Medicaid patient does not even cover the daily cost of caring for them. This is why private facilities limit the number of Medicaid beds in their facilities because of the poor reimbursements.

No other facility on Oahu accepts the number of Medicaid patients as Leahi and Maluhi does. With the budget crisis they experienced in 2015, they were forced to close units and decrease the number of beds available to the public. Where are our family members to go if they require more care than their family can provide? We are talking about citizens who helped build this country and this state; World War I and II veterans, Korean War and Vietnam veterans, retired farmers and public service workers; this is the population that survived the Great Depression and other world history events. We refuse to let that generation go without the proper care that they deserve.

My mother was a patient at Leahi Hospital and because of the location my father and other family members, who don't drive much, was able to visit her daily and spent time with her before she passed. If she were at any other facility farther away my father and family would not have been able to visit her as often.

I, we, support SB 2064 as a step in the right direction to help preserve our public safety net hospital and facility.

SB 2064 may not be as "flashy" or a hot topic to the public as other bills that come across the Legislature, however, I believe this to be one of the most important bills that can and will eventually affect every family in this Aloha state.

We urge lawmakers to consider the points made in this testimony as you address the impact of the budget crisis the public safety net facilities face today.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016  
9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 229

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

From: Vanessa Y. Chong  
Protect Leahi & Maluhia `Ohana  
corrected email address = yukachong@hawaiiantel.net

Re: SB 2064 Relating to Long-Term Care Services  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

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I am a member of Protect Leahi & Maluhia `Ohana – a local all-volunteer grassroots network of families and supporters – that developed in response to the budget crisis impacting the public safety net that Leahi & Maluhia hospitals provide.

My Mom is a long-term care resident at Leahi Hospital who was among the first wave of patients displaced by the budget crisis (lost of 76 beds at both hospitals; a 25% drop in capacity). Fortunately, Leahi was able to find another place for her within the hospital. While she lost her care-giving team (laid off/relocated within another hospital) – and slowly adjusted to the transition – our family is very grateful that Leahi’s valuable services and care continue. But we are very worried about Mom’s future care.

We support SB 2064 as a positive step towards repairing the damage caused to an important public hospital safety net.

We are in solidarity with families statewide who everyday are struggling with long-term care responsibilities and the very difficult decisions they face when it’s no longer possible to care for their loved ones at home. Add to this load the shock when families discover that long-term care services are disappearing from their communities.

Government fulfills its critical role of sustaining public safety nets – as is done for fire and police protection services – when it also keeps intact the long-term care safety net for our elderly and fragile who no longer can be supported at home.

We urge lawmakers to be sure that family voices are considered as you address the impact of the budget crisis on the statewide public hospital safety net.

Thanks you for this opportunity to testify.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [aveiror001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:aveiror001@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2064 on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 07, 2016 12:05:52 PM

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**SB2064**

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rodney Aveiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB2064 and help our large population of elderly citizens.

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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Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016  
9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 229

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

From: Ronald Tobar  
ron@royalstate.com

Re: SB 2064 Relating to Long-Term Care Services  
Testimony In Support

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Committee members:

I **support SB 2064**. My father was a resident of Maluhia for just under a year. My mother and I took care of him at home for about seven years after he suffered a debilitating stroke. At the time of his placement in Maluhia he could not stand, was on tube feeding, incontinent, suffering from dementia. He was Medicaid qualified, waiting for nursing home placement and had been forced out of Kuakini Hospital after exhausting his Medicare benefits. My mother was starting to get caregiver burn out from providing this care at home. Fortunately, Maluhia was able to accept him and being the closest nursing facility to Salt Lake where we resided helped make it easier to visit him. I feel that this placement in Maluhia contributed to extending my mother's life span to age 99 when she passed away and quality of life. We need to restore Maluhia and Leahi to the level of service they provided.

As a Baby Boomer, I worry about my future need for care and feel we need to keep as many existing long term care beds in service. As the Baby Boomers age, the demand for long term care will only increase, placing more demands on all the different types of long term care services. It is short sighted for the State to shrink the pool of long term care beds with the private sector not able to put out more. Besides, Maluhia and Leahi are the safety net for families with the harder to place resident to due to the level of care and behavioral problems. Private facilities seem to want to "cherry pick" from the pool of possible residents.

I urge you to pass SB 2064 to restore funding so Maluhia and Leahi can continue at the previous levels of service. Thank you.

**From:** [rs94122@aol.com](mailto:rs94122@aol.com)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony SB 2064 Support  
**Date:** Monday, February 08, 2016 6:34:35 AM

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Hearing date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016, 9:00 am, Conference Room 229

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce  
Consumer Protection and Health.

FROM: Roseanne Sakamoto  
Protect Leahi and Maluhia Ohana

Re: SB 2064 Relating to Long Term Care Testimony and Support

I am a member of Protect Leahi and Maluhia Ohana. I am sending this email via phone from my hospital bed. I apologize in advance if there are typos/mispellings as I am not accustomed to e-advances.

I am writing to urge you to support SB 2064. I am worried for my Mother's continued care in the community (at home and at Maluhia Day Health). Maluhia has been a god send to me and my Mother. I am her primary caregiver. My Mother is 90, frail, and with Parkinsons; she has been attending Maluhia Day Health since 2014. Even within this short period, staffing was reduced. Despite the reduction in staffing, Maluhia continues to demonstrate their

strong commitment to the elders attending, striving to maintain their

level of service as in the past, making my Mother's day lively, mentally and physically stimulating (providing a venue to interact with others beyond

family,

exercises, observe holidays) in a very safe, welcoming, caring, and compassionate environment. ALL staff at Maluhia are exemplary, cheery and receptive to our kupunas needs. I have personally heard the same with Leahi staff.

Between being cared for at home and Maluhia, my Mother's health has improved such that she is not cycling between being admitted into the hospital and home. I can't express my thanks enough to Maluhia's staff.

Maluhia and Leahi need continued full financial and legislative support. I implore you to support SB 2064 on behalf of my Mother, kupunas, and caregivers. Maluhia and Leahi are necessary lifelines.

Reduction in

staffing stretches existing staffs ability to mind our kupunas health and safety as in the past. Your support will also help families like me to continue to be with their loved ones, to help them thrive, to continue to be engaged, experience joy, and to feel a part of community.

I am in solidarity with families statewide who everyday are struggling with long term care (LTC) responsibilities and the difficult decisions

they  
face when it is no longer possible to care for their loved ones at home. Add to this the load the shock when families discover that LTC services are being reduced in the community.

Government fulfills its critical role of supporting public safety nets as it does for fire and police protection services when it also keeps intact the LTC safety net for our fragile kupuna who no longer can be cared for solely at home.

As a member of Protect Leahi and Maluhia Ohana, I urge lawmakers to be sure that family voices are considered as you address the impact of the budget crisis on the statewide public hospital safety net.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 229

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

From: Marian S. Swider,  
Protect Leahi & Maluhia `Ohana  
email address = marian.swider@gmail.com

Re: SB 2064 Relating to Long-Term Care Services TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

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Aloha,

I am a member of Protect Leahi & Maluhia `Ohana – a local all-volunteer grassroots network of families and supporters – that developed in response to the budget crisis impacting the public safety net that Leahi & Maluhia hospitals provide.

My mother has very advanced dementia, and although she is not yet in the long-term hospital portion of Maluhia, she is a daily participant at the Adult Day Health Center (MADHC)

The sole reason that I am able to still care for my mom in the evenings at home is because of the level of service that is provided by MADHC. She previously attended 2 other day care programs, each of which asked her to leave after her behavior became “dangerous” to other participants.

I feel blessed to have found MADHC, which did not shy away from assisting our family with my mom’s difficult level of care. Were it not for MADHC, I would be forced to place my mom in permanent nursing home care. There is no other facility in the State that provides the services that Maluhia and Leahi do.

The burden to my mom’s emotional health and finances are immeasurable.

I realize that there is a significant budget crisis, but I urge you to find the funding to allow Maluhia and Leahi Hospitals to continue to provide their unique services our most vulnerable population.

Mahalo for your support,

Marian Swider  
1607-A Makiki Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Date: February 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

From: Michelle Kato

Re: SB 2064 Relating to Long-Term Care Services  
Written Testimony - Support

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Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

This is written testimony in support of SB 2064.

As an employee of Maluhia and Leahi Hospital, I have witnessed many patients and participants face expressions turn in an instant, from a stubborn smirk to a wide open laughter while searching for a plastic egg during the annual Easter egg hunt; I have witnessed therapists encouraging patients to take a few more steps to complete their daily exercise; I have also witness family members expressing their gratitude by exchanging a hug and kind words with the nursing staff.

Unfortunately, I have also witnessed tears and frustration after the July 2015 announcement of the closure of one unit (at each facility) and a reduction in force (RIF). Every employee, patient, resident, participant and family member received the news in disbelief. However, it seemed as though there was no alternative due to the decline of reimbursements/subsidies and the increase in operating costs. Family members displayed fear and anxiety as they hoped and wished for an available room in-house. Employees were worried about their future and their own family. In the end, most patients were transferred within the facility and only a few were heart-broken and displaced. Some employees transferred to another facility or State Department and others were simply gone.

A lot has changed since the closure and the RIF, but through all of this uncertainty the staff continue to provide excellent patient care for Hawai'i as they did over a century ago. It is very unfortunate that the kupunas of Hawai'i are living the rest of their life in fear of not knowing who will provide care for them. Many of these kupunas rely on our care to sustain their quality of life. Many of them also rely on Medicaid to cover the cost of their daily meals, medication, therapy and nursing needs. Unfortunately, the Medicaid daily reimbursement rate is not enough to sustain the basic health care needs and cover the operating costs.

I strongly ask for your support in helping the kupunas that are unable to age in place by continuing to provide funds to Leahi Hospital and Maluhia. It is time to act favorably now, as the elderly population starts to grow and the working class family struggle to make ends meet.

Thank you for your support and opportunity to provide this written testimony.

**From:** [MattMakaha99](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony SB 2064 Support  
**Date:** Friday, February 05, 2016 6:59:09 PM

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Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 229

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

From: David Chong--email: [makaha99@gmail.com](mailto:makaha99@gmail.com)

Re: SB 2064 Relating to Long-Term Care Services--Testimony in Support

My mother, Beryl Chong, is currently in long-term care at Leahi Hospital. My father, Henry Chong, was also in long-term care at Leahi Hospital, from June 2007 until he passed away in April 2009.

The staff at Leahi is very good, hard working and efficient – such as the nursing and program staff. I go to the hospital at least once a week to visit my Mom, and have observed the nursing aide staff, in particular, who take care of everyday needs of the residents such as bathing, feeding, etc. I know how hard their job is, because I took care of my father for over 2 and a 1/2 years. My father had a stroke and also had dementia. Dementia can sometimes change the personality of a person--someone who was passive and shy his whole life can become very agitated, loud, and even violent, as was the case with my father. They can also be restless at night, which made it very hard for me to sleep most nights. My life was consumed by taking care of my Dad 24 hours a day, seven days a week (I quit my job to take care of him) for 2 and a 1/2 years. After my Dad fell out of his bed and fractured his hip, and then went through rehab, it became more difficult to care for him at home and our family decided the best decision was to find him a long-term care placement. It was a difficult decision for me to let him go, but in the end, Leahi Hospital admitted him and they were a savior, allowing me to have a life again. There are many others in Hawaii who are in the same situation that we were in.

Please support SB 2064 which would restore funding for what was lost at Leahi and Maluhia. Leahi and Maluhia provide a safety net for our most vulnerable elderly and disabled citizens.

Mahalo,

David Chong



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [gyoshiza@hotmail.com](mailto:gyoshiza@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2064 on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, February 08, 2016 8:26:29 AM

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**SB2064**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 9, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gwen Yoshizawa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Chair Baker and members, I am a registered voter in the Kaimuki district and my mother currently resides as a long term care patient at Leahi Hospital. We are very pleased with her daily care there and she enjoys the interaction, quality care & meals. Our community, as well as other communities on the other islands, are in dire need of a state facility per island to assist long term care patients who can no longer be cared for at home. We baby boomers will be next and our families in Hawaii are/will be further burdened financially, emotionally. We need to preserve these safety net facilities for our future. Once they are taken away, they may never return. Thank you for considering our plea. Sincere regards, Gwen Yoshizawa

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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**From:** [randy funn](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony SB 2064 support  
**Date:** Friday, February 05, 2016 5:50:09 PM

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I am a member of the grassroots Leahi Malahia Ohana Group that is seeking Budgeted Funds to support the current and future operations of Leahi and Maluhia State Hospitals. They are the only two (2) State Hospitals left in the State that provide "Long Term Care" Services.

Budget constraints have caused the closing of rooms/beds affecting much needed admissions by many Hawaii elderly families, etc. The partial closing has also resulted in down sizing of an experienced staff and the limitations of care services.

My aunt (89 years) has only been in Leahi for just 18 months but as a family we are very fortunate to have her reside at Leahi where she is cared/treated as a "family member" like all others, by a well trained, caring staff! Her being there and well cared for has also had a positive impact on her 91 year old husbands (prior care giver) over all health

Our Grassroots Ohana realize that the 2016 Legislation Session brings numerous challenges, as in the past, and pray that you as Lawmakers understand the priority for funding of these State Public Hospitals is a much needed service no different than police and fire protection. Let us remember our Kupuna's contribution to our "Great Aloha State" and now they need help!

Thank you for taking the time to read through my testimony and look forward to a very productive 2016 Session

Randy Funn  
[rfunn01@gmail.com](mailto:rfunn01@gmail.com)