

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB576
RELATING TO HEALTH**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 4, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill proposes to appropriate out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii
2 the sum of \$490,320 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 as a grant
3 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to Bay Clinic, Inc., for a mobile health unit to provide
4 health services in the Puna district on the island of Hawaii due to the threat of inaccessibility from the
5 lava flow.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the intent of the bill but defers to the Governor's
7 Executive Budget request and the Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities.

8 On January 30, 2015, William P. Kenoi, Mayor of the County of Hawaii signed a third emergency
9 supplementary proclamation declaring that a state of emergency continues to exist due to the threat of
10 imminent disaster on Hawaii Island, District of Puna. According to the Hawaii County Civil Defense
11 Agency's eruption and lava flow information update for February 2, 2015, they and the Hawaiian
12 Volcano Observatory are maintaining close observations of the flow. Residents and businesses down
13 slope continue to be informed of any changes in flow activity and advancement.

14 Community Health Centers are a critically important part of Hawaii's health care system as they
15 are the second-largest providers of direct primary medical services in the state. The Bay Clinic, Inc. is a
16 Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with a network of locations serving the east and south
17 districts on the island of Hawaii. One of their locations currently impacted by the threat of the lava flow

1 is the Pahoia Family Health Center (PFHC) which is located 20 miles southwest of Hilo in the Puna
2 District. Puna is a rural community that has a geographic land mass twice the size of Oahu. Much of the
3 area is without paved roads, electricity, running water or telephone services.

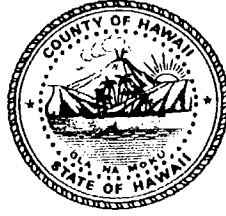
4 According to the Department's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Puna residents
5 experience worse health outcomes compared to Hawaii County and the State of Hawaii in the following
6 areas: (1) poorer physical and mental health status; (2) adults without healthcare coverage; (3) unable
7 to see a doctor due of the cost; (3) disability due to health problems; (4) and chronic conditions such as
8 asthma, COPD, diabetes, kidney and heart disease. The data also shows that access to preventative
9 programs and services are needed due to the higher than average rate of adults who are current
10 smokers as well as those with high cholesterol. In particular, more women in the Puna district report
11 never having certain medical tests done such as a mammograms or pap smears.

12 By providing support to Bay Clinic's Pahoia Family Health Center, it offers some assurances
13 that access to healthcare services will continue to be offered in this rural community as it faces
14 unprecedented challenges in the months ahead.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None

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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 576

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Sen. Josh Green, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Honorable Chair Green, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Health, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 576.

This measure appropriates a grant to the Bay Clinic, Inc., for a mobile health unit to service the Puna district due to the threat of inaccessibility from the lava flow.

The ongoing lava threat that is expected to cross Highway 130 and there will be an immediate need for mobile medical services. This mobile health unit will be able to provide examination rooms, laboratory services, and special medical tests to those residents who do not have the resources to travel to obtain the care they need.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 576. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Roth", written over a horizontal line.

Mitchell D. Roth
Prosecuting Attorney
County of Hawai'i

Testimony of Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

IN SUPPORT OF SB576, MOBILE HEALTH UNIT; APPROPRIATION

Before the Senate Committee on Health

Senator Josh Green, Chair

February 4, 2015

Dear Honorable Chairman Senator Green and Distinguished Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for SB576, proposing to appropriate a grant to the Bay Clinic, Inc. to support their effort to procure a mobile unit. The requested support will enable the mobile unit to serve the lower Puna region. This access to care is desperately needed given the threat of inaccessibility to services created by the lava flow.

We partner with Bay Clinic in East Hawai'i to ensure that Goodwill's program participants are enrolled in QUEST, if they qualify, and have access to their medical care needs.

Bay Clinic, Inc. is the only Federally Qualified Health Center serving the primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care needs of the residents of lower Puna. As such, Bay Clinic's two Pahoia health centers play a critical role in the continued health of the residents of lower Puna, particularly in light of the June 27th Lava Flow event. It is critical that Bay Clinic's services continue in full without interruption. The Bay Clinic Mobile Health Unit that provides primary medical and dental care will ensure that the residents of lower Puna have continued access to essential health care services and coordinating support.

The Bay Clinic, Inc. is an invaluable element of our community, contributing to the overall health and wellbeing of the community's residents and serving as a powerful economic engine and job creator. They have been a strong partner with us, coordinating access to care and support services for Hawai'i residents. I am writing you to urge you to support SB576, to help ensure access to medical care for the lower Puna region of Hawai'i Island.

Sincerely,



Laura D. Smith
President/CEO
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 576
Relating to Health
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer
February 4, 2015, 1:15 pm, Room 414

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 576, appropriating a grant to the Bay Clinic, Inc. for a mobile health unit to service the Puna district affected by lava flow.

The Bay Clinic, Inc. is a federally qualified health center providing comprehensive services in the east and south districts of the island of Hawaii. One part of that network is the Pahoia Family Health Center (PFHC), located twenty miles southwest of Hilo in Puna. Due to the geographic isolation of the region, residents in Puna routinely display poorer physical and mental health status, lower healthcare coverage rates, access issues, and higher rates of chronic conditions, such as asthma and COPD.

In the months ahead these disparities threaten to grow even more pronounced by the threat of lava flow in the region. For this reason the HPCA strongly supports this measure and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.



BAY CLINIC, INC.
NETWORK OF FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS

**Testimony of Bay Clinic, Inc.
IN SUPPORT OF SB576, MOBILE HEALTH UNIT; APPROPRIATION
Before the Senate Committee on Health
February 4, 2015**

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LEADERSHIP

Harold Wallace
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Glenn Dundas
Medical Director

Dr. Brian M. Higa
Dental Director




Participating Level III Sites:
Hilo Family Health Center
Kea'au Family Health Center
Pāhoa Family Health Center

Dear Honorable Chair and Distinguished Committee Members:

Aloha, I am Harold Wallace, CEO of Bay Clinic. I am here today to express Bay Clinic's support for SB576. About 8,200 Puna residents are living on the south side of the June 27th Lava Flow and will be cut off from the rest of the Puna District when the lava crosses Highway 130. Bay Clinic's Pāhoa Family Health Center and Pāhoa Women and Children's Health Center are located on the south side of the flow and have a combined patient population of 6,324 patients, generating 23,151 patient encounters per year. Over half of the 6,324 patient population are residents of lower Puna.

The predicted geographic change of lower Puna will have a significant impact on the way we provide care for the residents of the area. We have planned for the event and have increased our medical supply stock, started a 340B federal discount pharmacy delivery program, and secured a back-up generator. Although Bay Clinic will continue operations out of its two Pāhoa-based health centers, certain services such as dental care will not be readily available without this Mobile Health Unit. Bay Clinic looked at installing a dental operatory in one of its Pāhoa clinics, but the cost of doing so was prohibitive. This Unit is the most economical option to ensuring access to comprehensive primary medical and dental care.

Bay Clinic is the only Federally Qualified Health Center serving the health care needs of lower Puna residents regardless of their ability to pay. Bay Clinic provides the only dental care and state-sponsored Title X Family Planning, Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, and Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) services in the area. As reported earlier in the testimony, Bay Clinic's services are essential to the health and well-being of lower Puna residents and we ask that you consider and support SB576. Thank you for your time.


Harold Wallace
Chief Executive Officer

Hilo Family Health Center
Kea'au Family Health & Dental Center

Hilo Women's Health Center
Pāhoa Family Health Center

Hilo Family Dental Center
Pāhoa Women & Children's Health Center

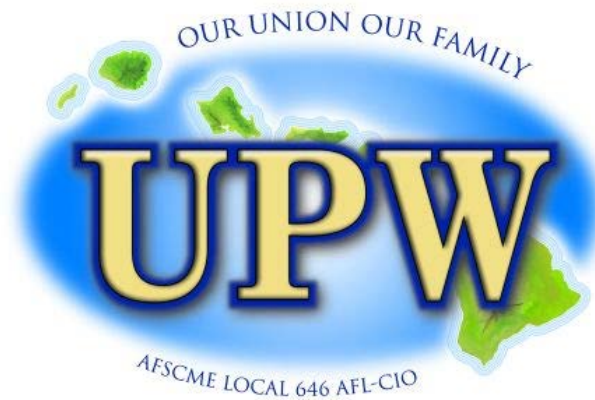
Mobile Health
Ka'ū Family Health & Dental Center

CORPORATE OFFICE

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Bay Clinic, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization



THE HAWAII STATE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, February 4, 2015
TIME OF HEARING: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 576 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A GRANT
TO THE BAY CLINIC**

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

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). 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 supports SB756 that will provide for a mobile health unit to service the Puna district in the event that the existing lava flow prevents access to medical service.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: ecabatu@hpsc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB576 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 12:11:33 PM

SB576

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HTH on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room CR414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 576 and the Bay Clinic, Inc.

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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