



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB580
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR THE PUNA COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 4, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill proposes an emergency appropriation out of the general revenues of the
2 State of Hawaii the sum of \$256,343 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015
3 to Puna Community Medical Center for a mobile health unit and an annex medical clinic in south Pahoia
4 to provide health services in the Puna district on the island of Hawaii due to the threat of inaccessibility
5 from the lava flow.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the need for health services in South Pahoia and
7 funding shortfalls but defers to the Governor's Executive Budget request and the Department of
8 Health's appropriations and personnel priorities.

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

15 The Puna Community Medical Center is a small community-based health center located in the
16 district of Puna on the island of Hawaii. Their mission is to provide readily accessible, high
17 quality health care for the residents and visitors to the Puna area. The non-profit organization is

1 supported by individual donations, fee for service payments, and community grants. For those with a
2 limited ability to pay, there is a sliding fee scale. Due to the recent events surrounding the lava flow,
3 their center temporarily moved to the other end of Pahoia Village across the street from the
4 Pahoia High and Intermediate School on December 22, 2014. At the moment, the Puna Community
5 Medical Center is experiencing multiple challenges due to these unique circumstances. Compounding
6 factors such as relocation costs, increases in overhead, decline in the local population and patient visits
7 are placing a strain on this small non-profit organization's limited financial reserves.

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

16 By providing support to the Puna Community Medical Center, it offers some assurances that
17 access to healthcare services will continue to be offered in this rural community as it faces
18 unprecedented challenges in the months ahead.

19 **Offered Amendments:** None

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 580

February 4, 2015

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR THE PUNA COMMUNITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Senate Bill No. 580 states that this Act is recommended by the Governor for immediate passage in accordance with Article VII, Section 9, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

The Department of Budget and Finance would like to point out that only the Governor can make a recommendation for immediate passage of a specific appropriation bill. It is our understanding that no recommendation has been made for this bill by the Governor as yet.

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 1:15 PM
Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 580

**MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR THE PUNA COMMUNITY
MEDICAL CENTER.**

I, Dan Brinkman, Interim East Hawaii Regional CEO of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, am in full support of SB 580 to make \$256,343 in emergency appropriations to the Puna Community Medical Center (PCMC) for a mobile health unit to service the Puna District due to the threat of inaccessibility from the lava flow.

This emergency appropriation for fiscal year 2014-2015 to PCMC is for a mobile health unit and an annex medical clinic in south Pahoia to provide health services in the Puna district on the island of Hawaii due to the threat of inaccessibility from the lava flow.

The East Hawaii Region, consisting of Hilo Medical Center, Hale Ho`ola Hamakua, Ka`u Hospital and its 12 outpatient general and specialty clinics, has long supported PCMC in its mission to provide access to healthcare in the Puna District. At the end of 2014, Hilo Medical Center loaned equipment to outfit PCMC's small, but essential clinic away from the lava flow.

I thank members of this committee for hearing this bill and ask them to support this emergency appropriation for the Puna Community Medical Center and for the future of a healthy Hawaii.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: zabal7@upwhawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 1:16:48 PM
Attachments: [SB580.docx](#)

SB580

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 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Al Lardizabal | United Public Workers | Support | No |

Comments:

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: lizzyfitz12@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 1:52:18 PM

SB580

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 |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth Fitzpatrick | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: Aloha, I support this bill not only as a teacher in the community but also mother to a young toddler. An emergency mobile unit is vital to aiding in the safety and well being our all members of our community. As a mother it gives me piece of mind that if there is an emergency, their are options for my family to receive care that may just save their life.

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Senate Health Committee
The Honorable Josh Green, Chairman
The Honorable Glen Wakai, Vice Chair
Honorable Committee Members:

January 31, 2015

Regarding SB580 requesting an emergency appropriation for The Puna Community Medical Center (PCMC) to help sustain operations of a Mobile Medical Van and an Annex clinic to continue to provide access to basic medical services in the face of a continued threat from an unpredictable flow of lava.

We are testifying in **strong support** of this legislation and urge this committee and the legislature to act as quickly as possible to provide the essential funds needed to sustain operations.

PCMC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created by and for the people of the community it serves. It is a great example of a community assessing its own needs and then addressing them. PCMC was created to improve access to care in an underserved town in rural Hawaii. Opened in 2009, we have managed more than 35,000 visits for all sorts of problems. We provided care regardless of the ability to pay for the services; with or without insurance, with or without cash. We are open seven days a week, no appointment needed.

Then the June 27th lava flow threatened to bisect the village; a point of service needed to be created south of the projected lava flow path. In mid and late October, the lava was a few hundred yards from cutting the main road. We identified a spot for a clinic, began accepting donations of furniture and equipment, and to purchase the supplies we knew we would need. In the middle of all this, we were offered a mobile medical van which would be able to move around the area spontaneously as circumstances demanded to provide care. It was a wonderful gift, exceedingly appropriate given the unpredictability of the lava flow.

Throughout all this, PCMC's staff and its Board of Directors remained committed to the mission of affording readily accessible care. A second clinic and a mobile van were costing hard money to establish and we were dipping into our meager reserves to make it happen. We were, and still are, pushing forward to sustain access, but the costs are high and more than we can sustain and survive for much longer. We urge you to approve SB580.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
Dan Domizio PA/MPH
Clinical Programs Director.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: wanuka9@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Friday, January 30, 2015 5:23:13 PM

SB580

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vaunda Stenzel | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: This Community Health Center is an integral part of the Puna District. Especially with the threat of impending lava, the citizens of Puna need a Community Health Center near. Mahalo for your consideration of this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: patriciasummers@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 7:21:21 PM

SB580

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Patricia Summers | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FOR THE PUNA COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER. Report Title: Puna Community Medical Center; Mobile Health Unit; Annex Medical Clinic; Emergency Appropriation (\$) Appropriate funds as an emergency appropriation to the Puna Community Medical Center for a mobile health unit to service the Puna district due to the threat of inaccessibility from the lava flow. Companion:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: tamara@tambrown.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 10:30:34 PM

SB580

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tamara Brown | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Please appropriate from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$256,343 for fiscal year 2014-2015 to Puna Community Medical Center for a mobile health unit and an annex medical clinic in south Pahoia to provide health services in the Puna district on the island of Hawaii due to the threat of inaccessibility from the lava flow.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: marshanytes@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Friday, January 30, 2015 5:59:07 PM

SB580

Submitted on: 1/30/2015

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| marsha nytes | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: I'm a nurse . We need medical care here in Puna

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Cc: ecabatu@hpsc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 12:10:47 PM

SB580

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 580 and the Puna Community Medical Center.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: nschomer@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 8:24:29 AM

SB580

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 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nadia Ranne | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: The Puna Community Medical Center is an essential part of the Puna community and needs our support to continue providing excellent care for so many including my own family. We need them. They need financial support especially with the unplanned expenses of relocating due to the lava flow. We need them now more than ever!

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: hsteele1@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 12:22:31 PM

SB580

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Harriet Steele | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Please support emergency funding for this clinic. It is vital to the community. Thank you

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: malamaopuna@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:31:19 AM

SB580

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 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rene Siracusa | Malama O Puna | Support | No |

Comments: Puna Community Medical Center (PCMC) is a grassroots nonprofit operating in one of the most economically depressed districts of the State. It does not have deep pockets. Because of the lava flow, PCMC spent most of its financial "cushion" in moving and preparing for a lava-safe location. Closed for 3 days for the move meant 3 days no income while paying employees. The lava also prevented PCMC from applying for some fairly certain County grants that deadlined in January. PCMC sees between 18-24% uninsured/underinsured patients, and without said grant would use its cushion to underwrite their care. But that cushion has been depleted with lava-related expenses. In order to continue to provide health care to the district of Puna, financial help is needed from the State. Operating the mobile medical van to outreach to patients in outlying coastal areas will, in itself, cost \$18,643 plus staffing (a CDL driver, provider and nurse). Our urgent care clinic is open 7 days a week including holidays and is fully staffed by trained professionals. Although the lava front is stalled today, it has been typical behavior of the eruption to stop and start again - often in a new spot. The current eruption is now 32 years old, with no sign of cessation at the source. We have to be prepared, from day to day, for any eventuality, so that no residents suffer or die without access to care. This bill will give PCMC the flexibility and enable it to save lives. Please vote in favor.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: hallie@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB580 on Feb 4, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Saturday, January 31, 2015 7:44:00 AM

SB580

Submitted on: 1/31/2015

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hallie Larsson | Individual | Comments Only | No |

Comments: Pahoia needs this funding for our Health and well being .

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