

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

I am MONA GREGORY RN and I strongly support SCR 25. I have provided health and caregiving services in Wahiawa and I like others have seen or suffered with the lack of access to healthcare for decades.

As the resolution states among other facts, we have lost over 200 physicians due to retirement or transfer to other employment and they have not been replaced. Our community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital continues to lose money to charity care and the emergency room continues to be used as a place to obtain primary care at great expense to the state and the health insurers.

Our community has worked hard for 3 years to complete all the state and federal requirements to start a health center in Wahiawa. In 2011 the late Senator Daniel Inouye helped the community to obtain a federal planning grant to see if a health center was needed. It proved without a doubt that we in Wahiawa needed a health center to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy community. Our current congressional delegation has designated The Wahiawa Center for Health a Senator Dan Inouye Legacy Project.

Please show your support for Wahiawa and our new health center by passing this resolution. This will send a strong message that our State protects its people and communities and this SCR 25 will allow us to share this message with all as our health center grows in Wahiawa.

Mahalo

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

I am Myah Jackson and I strongly support SCR 25. I have provided health and caregiving services in Wahiawa and I like others have seen or suffered with the lack of access to healthcare for decades.

As the resolution states among other facts, we have lost over 200 physicians due to retirement or transfer to other employment and they have not been replaced. Our community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital continues to lose money to charity care and the emergency room continues to be used as a place to obtain primary care at great expense to the state and the health insurers.

Our community has worked hard for 3 years to complete all the state and federal requirements to start a health center in Wahiawa. In 2011 the late Senator Daniel Inouye helped the community to obtain a federal planning grant to see if a health center was needed. It proved without a doubt that we in Wahiawa needed a health center to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy community. Our current congressional delegation has designated The Wahiawa Center for Health a Senator Dan Inouye Legacy Project.

Please show your support for Wahiawa and our new health center by passing this resolution. This will send a strong message that our State protects its people and communities and this SCR 25 will allow us to share this message with all as our health center grows in Wahiawa.

Mahalo

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SCR 25
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
IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

I am Rachelle R. Robino and I strongly support SCR 25. I have provided health and caregiving services in Wahiawa and I like others have seen or suffered with the lack of access to healthcare for decades.

As the resolution states among other facts, we have lost over 200 physicians due to retirement or transfer to other employment and they have not been replaced. Our community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital continues to lose money to charity care and the emergency room continues to be used as a place to obtain primary care at great expense to the state and the health insurers.

Our community has worked hard for 3 years to complete all the state and federal requirements to start a health center in Wahiawa. In 2011 the late Senator Daniel Inouye helped the community to obtain a federal planning grant to see if a health center was needed. It proved without a doubt that we in Wahiawa needed a health center to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy community. Our current congressional delegation has designated The Wahiawa Center for Health a Senator Dan Inouye Legacy Project.

Please show your support for Wahiawa and our new health center by passing this resolution. This will send a strong message that our State protects its people and communities and this SCR 25 will allow us to share this message with all as our health center grows in Wahiawa.

Mahalo

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

I am Shaila Pay and I strongly support SCR 25. I have provided health and caregiving services in Wahiawa and I like others have seen or suffered with the lack of access to healthcare for decades.

As the resolution states among other facts, we have lost over 200 physicians due to retirement or transfer to other employment and they have not been replaced. Our community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital continues to lose money to charity care and the emergency room continues to be used as a place to obtain primary care at great expense to the state and the health insurers.

Our community has worked hard for 3 years to complete all the state and federal requirements to start a health center in Wahiawa. In 2011 the late Senator Daniel Inouye helped the community to obtain a federal planning grant to see if a health center was needed. It proved without a doubt that we in Wahiawa needed a health center to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy community. Our current congressional delegation has designated The Wahiawa Center for Health a Senator Dan Inouye Legacy Project.

Please show your support for Wahiawa and our new health center by passing this resolution. This will send a strong message that our State protects its people and communities and this SCR 25 will allow us to share this message with all as our health center grows in Wahiawa.

Mahalo

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SCR 25
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
IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

I am Cassie Gould and I strongly support SCR 25. I have provided health and caregiving services in Wahiawa and I like others have seen or suffered with the lack of access to healthcare for decades.

As the resolution states among other facts, we have lost over 200 physicians due to retirement or transfer to other employment and they have not been replaced. Our community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital continues to lose money to charity care and the emergency room continues to be used as a place to obtain primary care at great expense to the state and the health insurers.

Our community has worked hard for 3 years to complete all the state and federal requirements to start a health center in Wahiawa. In 2011 the late Senator Daniel Inouye helped the community to obtain a federal planning grant to see if a health center was needed. It proved without a doubt that we in Wahiawa needed a health center to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy community. Our current congressional delegation has designated The Wahiawa Center for Health a Senator Dan Inouye Legacy Project.

Please show your support for Wahiawa and our new health center by passing this resolution. This will send a strong message that our State protects its people and communities and this SCR 25 will allow us to share this message with all as our health center grows in Wahiawa.

Mahalo

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

I am Tasha Pineda and I strongly support SCR 25. I have provided health and caregiving services in Wahiawa and I like others have seen or suffered with the lack of access to healthcare for decades.

As the resolution states among other facts, we have lost over 200 physicians due to retirement or transfer to other employment and they have not been replaced. Our community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital continues to lose money to charity care and the emergency room continues to be used as a place to obtain primary care at great expense to the state and the health insurers.

Our community has worked hard for 3 years to complete all the state and federal requirements to start a health center in Wahiawa. In 2011 the late Senator Daniel Inouye helped the community to obtain a federal planning grant to see if a health center was needed. It proved without a doubt that we in Wahiawa needed a health center to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy community. Our current congressional delegation has designated The Wahiawa Center for Health a Senator Dan Inouye Legacy Project.

Please show your support for Wahiawa and our new health center by passing this resolution. This will send a strong message that our State protects its people and communities and this SCR 25 will allow us to share this message with all as our health center grows in Wahiawa.

Mahalo

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

I am Rochelle Farías and I strongly support SCR 25. I have provided health and caregiving services in Wahiawa and I like others have seen or suffered with the lack of access to healthcare for decades.

As the resolution states among other facts, we have lost over 200 physicians due to retirement or transfer to other employment and they have not been replaced. Our community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital continues to lose money to charity care and the emergency room continues to be used as a place to obtain primary care at great expense to the state and the health insurers.

Our community has worked hard for 3 years to complete all the state and federal requirements to start a health center in Wahiawa. In 2011 the late Senator Daniel Inouye helped the community to obtain a federal planning grant to see if a health center was needed. It proved without a doubt that we in Wahiawa needed a health center to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy community. Our current congressional delegation has designated The Wahiawa Center for Health a Senator Dan Inouye Legacy Project.

Please show your support for Wahiawa and our new health center by passing this resolution. This will send a strong message that our State protects its people and communities and this SCR 25 will allow us to share this message with all as our health center grows in Wahiawa.

Mahalo

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

I am Cherylene Adams-Ciantey and I strongly support SCR 25. I have provided health and caregiving services in Wahiawa and I like others have seen or suffered with the lack of access to healthcare for decades.

As the resolution states among other facts, we have lost over 200 physicians due to retirement or transfer to other employment and they have not been replaced. Our community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital continues to lose money to charity care and the emergency room continues to be used as a place to obtain primary care at great expense to the state and the health insurers.

Our community has worked hard for 3 years to complete all the state and federal requirements to start a health center in Wahiawa. In 2011 the late Senator Daniel Inouye helped the community to obtain a federal planning grant to see if a health center was needed. It proved without a doubt that we in Wahiawa needed a health center to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy community. Our current congressional delegation has designated The Wahiawa Center for Health a Senator Dan Inouye Legacy Project.

Please show your support for Wahiawa and our new health center by passing this resolution. This will send a strong message that our State protects its people and communities and this SCR 25 will allow us to share this message with all as our health center grows in Wahiawa.

Mahalo

LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

I am Jamie Woodard and I strongly support SCR 25. I have provided health and caregiving services in Wahiawa and I like others have seen or suffered with the lack of access to healthcare for decades.

As the resolution states among other facts, we have lost over 200 physicians due to retirement or transfer to other employment and they have not been replaced. Our community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital continues to lose money to charity care and the emergency room continues to be used as a place to obtain primary care at great expense to the state and the health insurers.

Our community has worked hard for 3 years to complete all the state and federal requirements to start a health center in Wahiawa. In 2011 the late Senator Daniel Inouye helped the community to obtain a federal planning grant to see if a health center was needed. It proved without a doubt that we in Wahiawa needed a health center to maintain a healthy lifestyle and a healthy community. Our current congressional delegation has designated The Wahiawa Center for Health a Senator Dan Inouye Legacy Project.

Please show your support for Wahiawa and our new health center by passing this resolution. This will send a strong message that our State protects its people and communities and this SCR 25 will allow us to share this message with all as our health center grows in Wahiawa.

Mahalo

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Address

P. O. Box 860339
Wahiawa HI, 96786
www.wahiawahealth.org
808-591-0000

Board Members

Board President:
Mary C. Talon, RN

Vice President:
Jonette Buza

Secretary:
Scott Harada

Treasurer:
June Hurst-Jones

Directors:
Doug Aton
Jeanne C. Ishikawa
'elma Papahileiaioha Kekipi
Jay Raymundo
Nicole Vannatta
Joy Mahiko

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

My name is Nicole Vannatta and I am a member of the board of directors for The Wahiawa Center for Community Health. I support this measure.

- As a board member, I have made a commitment to make the community healthier. You don't have to spend a lot of time in Wahiawa to understand there is a significant shortage of healthcare resources. When the WCCH opens its doors, we hope to quickly make an impact on the community by making healthcare services available to all.

I currently serve on the Education committee. A short time ago, the WCCH was afforded the privilege of meeting with a number of Wahiawa school officials. They shared their stories and challenges with us, and helped us identify ways that we might be able to support the schools in the future. I would like to share one story with you today.

There was a young girl who was chronically absent from school. When the school contacted her mother to find out why she was chronically absent, they found out that it was due to her mother's illness. The Mom had health issues that required her to routinely seek medical care. The healthcare services that were available to her were in town. She did not drive, and therefore relied on the bus. The bus trip to and from town took several hours, and on days that she had to travel to town for doctor's visits, she could not guarantee that she would be home in time to meet her daughter after school. She lived in an unsafe neighborhood, and did not want her daughter to come home alone, so

she would pull her daughter out of school for the entire day when she needed to seek medical services in town. By making healthcare more accessible, this woman would not have to take a lengthy bus ride to access healthcare resources, and her daughter would not need to miss school.

The Wahiawa Center for Community Health will positively impact the lives of Wahiawa residents by offering comprehensive, accessible, affordable, culturally sensitive health care. We humbly ask you to support us as we take the last few steps towards opening the health center doors.

PLEASE pass SCR 25 so that the message of healthcare needs in Wahiawa becomes an issue that will gain public support.

Mahalo

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Address

P. O. Box 860339
Wahiawa HI, 96786
www.wahiawahealth.org
808-591-0000

Board Members

Board President:
Mary C. Talon, RN

Vice President:
Jonette Buza

Secretary:
Scott Harada

Treasurer:
June Hurst-Jones

Directors:
Doug Aton

Jeanne C. Ishikawa
'elma Papahileialoha Kekipi
Jay Raymundo
Nicole Jones Vannatta
Joy Mahiko

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

My name is Dr. June Hurst-Jones and I am the treasurer of the board of directors for The Wahiawa Center for Community Health. I support this measure.

As a board member, I have made a commitment to make our community healthier. My commitment is to the physical and mental health of people in the Wahiawa community.

I am a longtime resident of the North Shore and have many clients from Wahiawa. I have seen physicians retire or otherwise leave our community leaving my clients and their families without access to healthcare.

As a Marriage and Family Therapist, my clients and their families are my ohana. The health of my clients and also the health of their family is of utmost importance to me as their physical health is tied to their psychological health, family functioning, and quality of life.

Because transportation is an issue in our rural community of Wahiawa and because of our lack of physicians in Wahiawa, many spend hours in public transportation to obtain healthcare outside of Wahiawa. The traffic situation out of Wahiawa to outside providers also creates extensive time for our families to get to a physician. This creates an undue burden on many families.

According to community health assessments that we ourselves completed, a high percentage of our community members suffer from some form of the top five chronic

health conditions, which could be controlled with help from a primary care network in Wahiawa.

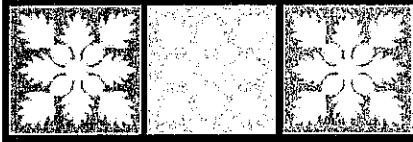
The community is proud of its community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital, but with its limited resources, preventable and non-emergency visits are draining its limited resources and these services have proven to be better served at a primary, health center setting.

PLEASE pass SCR 25 so that the message of healthcare needs in Wahiawa becomes an issue that will gain public support.

Mahaio,

Dr. June Hurst-Jones
Northshore Collaborative Therapy
Treasurer, Wahiawa Center for Community Health

LATE



Hawaii Association of Health Plans

March 14, 2016

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: SCR 25/ SR 8 – 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

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

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) respectfully submits comments in support of SCR 25 and SR 8.

HAHP appreciates and shares the Committee's desire to highlight the critical need for primary medical care services in Wahiawa and neighboring communities. As with many rural communities around the state that face changing economic and social landscapes, there is an increasing need for the Wahiawa community to have greater access to health care services. Wahiawa's limited health care facilities equates to greater pressure placed on the Wahiawa General Hospital. Therefore, HAHP strongly supports efforts to establish the Wahiawa Center for Community Health as a way to increase quality health care options for Wahiawa and, thus, improve the overall health of this community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 25/ SR 8.

Sincerely,
Paula Arcena
HAHP Public Policy Committee

Cc: HAHP Board Members

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Address

P. O. Box 860339
Wahiawa HI, 96786
www.wahiawahealth.org
808-591-0000

Board Members

Board President:
Mary C. Talon, RN

Vice President:
Jonette Buza

Secretary:
Scott Harada

Treasurer:
June Hurst-Jones

Directors:
Doug Aton
Jeanne C. Ishikawa
'elma Papahileialoha Kekipi
Jay Raymundo
Nicole Jones Vannatta
Joy Mahiko

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

My name is Jonette Buza and I am a member of the board of directors for The Wahiawa Center for Community Health.

As a rural community, we are seeing a high demand for youth health services. The need of consistent primary care closer to home, behavioral counseling and education will provide our youth with the quality of life they so deserve.

Wahiawa is facing many challenges as we transition into a more diverse community. I'm especially concerned about our youth. There are currently 4 students that I know of at Wahiawa Middle School that are pregnant. There are substantial behavioral issues, absenteeism and with the inadequate number of primary care clinicians practicing in Wahiawa this trend will continue. According to the numerous survey's completed, Wahiawa are underprivileged and underserved, therefore it is imperative that we bring in the Wahiawa Center for Community Health to our community to provide the much needed primary health care services.

At full operational capacity, the Wahiawa Center for Community Health's services will provide the necessary primary care, including pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, behavior health, oral health care, care coordination, and on-site pharmacy services. I strongly feel, having access to a community health facility closer to home is viable for a healthy community and is in our best interest.

It is without reservation, therefore, that I support WCCH's efforts to establish a Federally Qualified Health Center for our Wahiawa and surrounding communities.

THE

WAHIAWA

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

PLEASE pass SCR 25 so that the message of healthcare needs in Wahiawa becomes an issue that will gain public support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jonette Buza

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Address

P. O. Box 860339
Wahiawa HI, 96786
www.wahiawahealth.org
808-591-0000

Board Members

Board President:
Mary C. Talon, RN

Vice President:
Jonette Buza

Secretary:
Scott Harada

Treasurer:
June Hurst-Jones

Directors:
Doug Aton
Jeanne C. Ishikawa
Leilani Papahaleialoha Kekipi
Jay Raymundo
Nicole Jones Vannatta
Joy Mahiko

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

My name is Jay Raymundo and I am a member of the board of directors for The Wahiawa Center for Community Health. I support this measure.

- As a board member, I have made a commitment to make our community healthier. My commitment is to help the Wahiawa Center for Community Health to be a successful entity and fulfill its mission for the Wahiawa community and surrounding areas.
- As a lifelong resident of Wahiawa, I have seen physicians retire or otherwise leave our community leaving my neighbors without access to healthcare.
- As the CEO of Aloha Habilitation Services, a home health care agency that was established 15 years ago in Wahiawa, my employees and clients are my ohana and my biggest asset. Their health and also the health of their family is of utmost importance to me as they are part of the success of our business.
- As a rural community, we are seeing a growth in immigrants who as part of our community have a need to consistent primary care to assure them the quality of life we all require in our State of Hawaii.
- Because transportation is an issue in our rural community of Wahiawa and because of our lack of physicians in Wahiawa, many spend hours in public transportation to obtain healthcare outside of Wahiawa. The traffic situation

out of Wahiawa to outside providers also creates extensive time for our families to get to a physician.

- According to community health assessments that we ourselves completed, a high percentage of our community members suffer from some form of the top five chronic health conditions, which could be controlled with help from a primary care network in Wahiawa.
- The community is proud of its community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital, but with its limited resources, preventable and non-emergency visits are draining its limited resources and these services have proven to be better served at a primary, health center setting.

PLEASE pass SCR 25 so that the message of healthcare needs in Wahiawa becomes an issue that will gain public support.

Mahalo



Jay Raymundo

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Address

P. O. Box 860339
Wahiawa HI, 96786
www.wahiawahealth.org
808-591-0000

Board Members

Board President:
Mary C. Taion, RN

Vice President:
Joneffe Buza

Secretary:
Scott Harada

Treasurer:
June Hurst-Jones

Directors:
Doug Aton
Jeanne C. Ishikawa
'elma Papahileialoha Kekipi
Jay Raymundo
Nicole Jones Vannatta
Joy Mahiko

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2016
TIME: 9:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
SCR 25

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

IN SUPPORT

Good morning Chair Baker and members of the committee:

My name is Joy Mahiko and I am a member of the board of directors for The Wahiawa Center for Community Health. I support this measure.

- As a board member, I have made a commitment to make our community healthier. My commitment is to the children and families of Wahiawa and join in a concerted effort to revitalize the Wahiawa community. It begins with promoting a "healthy" community.
- As a born and raised third generation resident of Wahiawa, I have seen physicians retire or otherwise leave our community leaving my neighbors without access to healthcare. As a result, access to healthcare is a problem for our families. Eighty percent of our children receive free or reduced lunch in Wahiawa public schools. Resources are limited. They do not have the financial resources to travel and access quality healthcare or are not accepted by physicians that do not accept Medicaid recipients.
- Residents have expressed their desire to see a "transformation" in health and social service delivery. They are ready to embrace the idea of a center for community health that promotes health for the entire community.
- As a small business owner and educator serving people with disabilities, it is clear that people with disabilities face additional barriers to access healthcare. These barriers range from physically accessing a health facility, to accessing exams and medical equipment that accommodate a person with a disability, to

receiving quality healthcare services in a timely manner. Limited access to health care impacts persons with disabilities, and their ability reach full potential, negatively affecting their quality of life. Their health and well being is of utmost importance to me as we move forward to promote a healthy community.

- As a rural community, we are seeing a growth in immigrant and homeless families. These special populations in Wahiawa require more health services and consistent primary care when compared to others. The shortage of primary care providers not only affects access, but presents challenges to patient care and quality of care. Residents have expressed their desire to see a “transformation” in health and social service delivery. They embrace the idea of a center for community health that promotes health for the entire community.
- Because transportation is an issue in our rural community of Wahiawa and because of our lack of physicians in Wahiawa, many spend hours in public transportation to obtain healthcare outside of Wahiawa. The traffic situation out of Wahiawa to outside providers also creates extensive time for our families to get to a physician. The problem worsens when families opt out of needed medical care due to lack of transportation, access, or cost. This widespread issue has grim effects on efforts to prevent major health conditions and chronic diseases. This was made evident in our community health assessment.
- According to community health assessments that we completed in 2012 and 2015, a high percentage of our community members suffer from some form of the top five chronic health conditions, which could be controlled with help from a primary care network in Wahiawa.
- The community is proud of its community hospital, the Wahiawa General Hospital, but with its limited resources, preventable and non-emergency visits are draining its limited resources and these services have proven to be better served at a primary, health center setting.

PLEASE pass SCR 25 so that the message of healthcare needs in Wahiawa becomes an issue that will gain public support.

Mahalo