

# SB1238

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE PATIENT NAVIGATION PROGRAM.

Report Title: Health; Moloka'i Hospital; Patient Navigation Program; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Makes an appropriation for a two-year temporary patient navigation program based at Moloka'i General Hospital for patients with chronic disease in medically underserved rural communities.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): ENGLISH



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 1238, RELATING TO THE PATIENT NAVIGATION PROGRAM.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

**DATE:** Monday, February 13, 2017                      **TIME:** 10:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 229

**TESTIFIER(S):** Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or  
Angela A. Tokuda, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate \$200,000 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and the same sum for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to Moloka'i General Hospital for a two-year temporary patient navigation program.

While we appreciate the intent of this bill as currently written, the means for the State to expend the funds could be challenged as violating article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii Constitution. That section provides, in part, that "[n]o grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law."

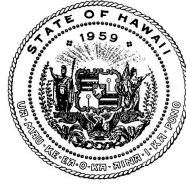
We recommend if Moloka'i General Hospital applied to the Legislature for a grant and is eligible pursuant to the standards of chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Legislature could appropriate funds for a grant to Moloka'i General Hospital to achieve the goals intended by this bill. Possible wording to accomplish this is to add the following underlined phrase in section 3, at page 5, line 17:

There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to

Moloka'i General Hospital, for a two-year temporary patient navigation program based at Moloka'i General Hospital.

If the Committee decides to proceed with this bill, we respectfully ask the Committee to amend the funding provision of the bill to meet the requirements of article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii Constitution.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY  
ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1238  
RELATING TO THE PATIENT NAVIGATION PROGRAM.**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: Februar 13, 2017

Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$200,000 general fund appropriation for the Department of Health that is
- 2 not part of the Executive Budget Request.
  
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) acknowledges the utility of patient
- 4 navigation programs, particularly for populations with disparate health status in medically
- 5 underserved areas.
  
- 6 The department defers to other state agencies for the appropriate legal wording and mechanisms,
- 7 potentially chapte 42F, that are required to expend public funds for private entities.
  
- 8 **Offered Amendments:** N/A
- 9



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Paula Yoshioka, Senior Vice President, The Queen's Health Systems  
Date: February 10, 2017  
Hrg: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Hearing; Monday,  
February 13, 2017 at 10:30AM in Room 229

Re: **Support for SB1238, Relating to the Patient Navigation Program**

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My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's). We would like to express our **support** for SB 1238, which will provide resources for patient navigation services at Molokai General Hospital (MGH).

For over 150 years, Queen's has been committed to the mission of providing quality health care services to Native Hawaiians as well as all the people of Hawaii. MGH is a rural health care facility that provides much needed health care services to the Molokai community, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Native Hawaiians on Molokai make up sixty-three percent of the population, not thirty-two percent as noted in Section 1 of the bill.

Patient navigation utilizes evidence-based practices in cancer care that assist patients through complex health care systems to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment, addresses potential challenges for patients such as barriers to care (i.e. no services provided on island, lack of access to specialists on island, etc.). Through funding from the National Cancer Institute, the 'Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network program was able to train staff on patient navigation at MGH and improve cancer screening rates for colorectal, breast, and cervical cancer.

Between 2006 to 2009 MGH was one of six sites participating in the Cancer Prevention and Treatment Demonstration sponsored by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). MGH was the only project site to demonstrate statistically significant gains in cancer screenings among all six sites.

As a rural health care facility, MGH understands the value that coordinated care has for our patients in need of specialty services and the unique challenges in access to care as an island state. Queen's believes that the patient navigation program at MGH can serve as model of care for other rural communities in the state.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

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



## 'Ahahui o nā Kauka

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Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Monday, February 13, 2017. 10:30 AM

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

### Senate Bill 1238

### RELATING TO THE PATIENT NAVIGATION PROGRAM IN SUPPORT

'Ahahui o nā Kauka, the Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians, established in 1998 to *Champion Superior Health Care for all Native Hawaiians*, is **IN SUPPORT of SB1238** making an appropriation for a 2-year patient navigation pilot program at Molokai General Hospital.

As a body of Native Hawaiian physicians we are acutely aware of the disparate rates of chronic diseases in our community, having some of the highest rates of morbidity and mortality due to heart disease, diabetes, obesity, hypertension, asthma, and cancer. We are acknowledge from recent assessments, from our colleagues practicing in rural hospitals and clinics, and from the patients referred to our member specialists in Honolulu that kānaka maoli from geographically isolated communities such as Moloka'i, Hāna, Kā'ū, and other rural areas face additional barriers to access healthcare.

Our members have participated with the development and growth of cancer patient navigation programs both on O'ahu and the neighboring islands, specifically those developed by 'Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network and Papa Ola Lōkahi. Most programs are staffed by community leaders who serve as lay navigators (not clinically trained) who assist with travel, helping patients attain insurance, making appointments and ensuring the paperwork is in order, coordinating transportation, providing health education, and other outreach and enabling services. Our patients who have had positive interactions with these patient navigators ultimately have improved health outcomes.

Since our inception, Moloka'i has provided models in community based health care, research, programs and services. With our Moloka'i kauka involved, we have confidence that their collaboration with Moloka'i General Hospital will lead to success in navigating that island's patients to services in Honolulu or on Maui. We are encouraged that their success will provide a model for other rural clinics and hospitals throughout the islands in which our members on other islands can collaborate to better serve our communities statewide.

Mahalo for the opportunity for 'Ahahui o nā Kauka to support SB 1238.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2017 2:48 AM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** bmurphy420@mail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1238 on Feb 13, 2017 10:30AM\*

**SB1238**

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 13, 2017 10:30AM in Conference Room 229

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Murphy        | Individual          | 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  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2017 1:37 AM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** mary@mauivortex.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1238 on Feb 13, 2017 10:30AM\*

**SB1238**

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 13, 2017 10:30AM in Conference Room 229

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Overbay        | Individual          | 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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THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1238  
RELATING TO THE PATIENT NAVIGATION PROGRAM

Hearing Date: Monday, February 13, 2017  
Conference Room 229

Submitted by: JoAnn Tsark, MPH, Research Director, Papa Ola Lōkahi

Aloha Senator Baker, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health.

‘Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network (‘Imi Hale), a program of Papa Ola Lōkahi lends it full and strong support for SB1238 in which Moloka`i General Hospital (MGH) proposes to implement a two-year patient navigation pilot program to assist patients with chronic diseases to access timely medical care, particularly those services not available on island.

Patient navigation was first developed for cancer care for the medically uninsured and under-served women at Harlem Hospital, NY in the 1980s. This service was implemented in Hawai`i in 2006 within the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems to assist their patients with abnormal cancer screening or with a diagnosis of cancer. Cancer patient navigation has become an evidence-based service, nationally and locally, that helps cancer patients navigate a highly complex and fractured cancer care system for better cancer care outcomes. Today, cancer patient navigation programs are a required service for all hospitals certified by the Commission on Cancer, of which there are five in Hawai`i: The Queen’s Medical Center, Kapi‘olani Health Center, Pali Momi Health Center, Straub Hospital and Kuakini Medical Center. Navigation programs also exist in the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, and three neighbor island hospitals, Maui Memorial Health Center, Hilo Medical Center and Wilcox Health Center on Kaua‘i.

Moloka‘i General Hospital is staffed by navigators trained by ‘Imi Hale since 2006 and has one the longest running patient navigation program, second only to The Queen’s Medical Center. MGH also participated in a national navigation study funded by CMS (2006-2009) and demonstrated in a randomized control trial statistically significant increases in cancer screening for Medicare beneficiaries on Moloka‘i. Their findings showed that navigation services increase cancer screening in Medicare beneficiaries in groups with significant disparities (Journal of American Geriatric Society 2015).

Now MGH aims to apply navigation services to patients with other chronic diseases



Halehuki circa 1940

*‘Imi Hale*

Native Hawaiian Cancer Network

A Program of Papa Ola Lōkahi

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Telephone · 808 526-1700  
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Website: www.imihale.org

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‘Imi Hale is supported through a cooperative agreement with the National Cancer Institute, Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, (U54CA153459)

such as heart disease and diabetes, which are significantly higher among their island population of which 62% are Native Hawaiian. Many of the patients are referred off-island for specialty services in Honolulu. These patients, like patients with cancer face the same barriers to timely and coordinated care. We know from our research in Hawai'i that patients referred to care from the neighbor islands face multiple barriers, the most common being, transportation, accommodations, financial, and heightened anxiety, especially if they are traveling without a companion who can help negotiate Honolulu's traffic and density.

The evidence suggests that patients traveling from Moloka'i to Honolulu for care face not one, but multiple barriers or obstacles to healthcare. Patient navigation cannot eliminate all the barriers that patients face but it offers support and guidance in reducing those barriers and, contributes to accessing care, overcoming barriers and facilitating timely care provided in a culturally sensitive manner.

`Imi Hale and Papa Ola Lōkahi have great confidence that Molokai General Hospital will successfully demonstrate the feasibility of applying navigation services to patients with chronic diseases. They are well positioned to build on their history and lessons learned from providing navigation services to cancer patients to tailor navigation services to patients with other chronic diseases.

We ask for your support in funding this demonstration project and encourage this committee to see the future implications and application of this investment because it will serve as a model to other healthcare providers serving our other rural Hawaiian communities.

Mahalo,

JoAnn Tsark, MPH  
Research Director, Papa Ola Lokahi  
Project Director, `Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network  
894 Queen Street, Honolulu HI 96813  
Ph: 808 721-7511

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Senate Members Stanley Ching, Will Espero, Les Ihara, Jr., Michelle N Kidani  
and Russell E. Ruderman

Hearing on Senate Bill 1238  
Relating to Patient Navigation Pilot Program

Monday, February 13, 2017  
10:39 a.m.  
Conference Room 229  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Mai. I am Noa Emmett Aluli, MD, Primary Care Physician on Moloka`i, an Executive Director of Molokai General Hospital, Vice President of the Native Hawaiian Physicians Association (Aha Hui o Na Kauka), and a founding Board Member and past Medical Director of Na Pu`uwai (the Native Hawaiian Health Care System on Moloka`i and Lana`i).

I strongly support SB1238 in which Moloka`i General Hospital (MGH) proposes to implement a two-year patient navigation pilot program to assist Native Hawaiians with chronic diseases to access timely medical care particularly those services not available on island (Moloka`i, Lana`i and Ni`ihau) and in the rural areas of our Island State (Hana and Ka`u).

In my clinic practice, so that you understand how difficult it is to navigate through the complexities of timely referrals to Honolulu for appropriate diagnoses, specialty consultations, and 'staging' in the case of cancer for treatment, might I summarize the following case scenarios:

A 47 y.o Native Hawaiian male: followed by pulmonology since 11/28/2016;  
admitted QMC 12/27 for pneumonia, renal cell carcinoma, IDDM – uncontrolled,  
urology and oncology consults; 1/17/2017 endocrinology consult and right nephrectomy; week start 2/13 lung biopsy and oncology consult  
A 69 y.o Native Hawaiian male followed for weight loss, tobacco abuse, CRD, chronic back pain, and controlled Opioid dependency, and PTSD;  
11/29/2016 RLL mass on skeletal scan per Nephrology work up  
gammanopathy; 12/19 CT bronchogenic neoplasm; 1/16/2017 CT biopsy

small  
cell carcinoma; 2/9 and 2/10 MRIs for staging; 2/17 oncology consult  
A 59 y.o. Native Hawaiian male treated 2011 for stage III seminoma - s/p  
left orchiectomy, chemotherapy and radiation therapy; 1/22/2017 MGH ER  
lytic /  
“ground glass” lesion right radial metadiaphysis; 2/31 MGH pathologic  
fracture  
right proximal radius; 2/7 oncology consult and referral orthopedic; 2/8  
MRI  
elbow;

As a clinical staff member of Molokai General Hospital, with hospitalist privileges, my clinic patients benefit from the cancer navigating support from Kukui Ahi, our cancer navigating program for confirmation of appointments, travel and ground transportation, follow up visits and education. Without the 10 year experience of cancer navigation with Queens Medical Center for these services, we estimate a critical delay in essential treatment for at least three months, sometimes four months.

As a member of the Ahahui on Na Kauka, I have lead “focus” group discussions with “kauka” – Native Hawaiian physicians on Hawai`i and Maui islands, and access to identify

As a Native Hawaiian physician, I am very familiar with the successful training of cancer navigators by Papa Ola Lokahi / Imi Hale for all hospitals on O`ahu and for the Native Hawaiian Health Care systems.

We are assured that our Molokai General Hospital cancer navigation program will develop as a model and template for chronic disease navigation services in the future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.