



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

LATE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB977
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH AUTHORITY.**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 10, 2017

Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports SB977, which is part of
3 Governor Ige's administration package.
- 4 The department seeks repeal of the Hawaii Health Authority (Authority) as part of a broader
5 effort to realign health policy activities under the State Health Planning and Development
6 Agency (SHPDA). Entities like the Authority, which focused on universal health care with a
7 unified delivery system, and the Office of Health Care Innovation, the purpose of which was
8 implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA), had varying
9 degrees of statutory authority but lacked the institutional history, staffing, and budget persistence
10 of SHPDA.
- 11 Discussion is ongoing, but a major step towards enhancing SHPDA's health planning function
12 was achieved by Act 139, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, which established the State's all-payer
13 claims database to collect and analyze health benefits plans, health care services claims, and
14 payment data.
- 15 The Department of Health recognizes the contributions of the Authority such as single risk pools
16 and fixed funding streams, that remain relevant and should be part of Hawaii's future health
17 policy debates. In particular, the Authority's inspiration provided by the life of Ms. Ah Quon
18 McElrath should be memorialized.
- 19 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

LATE

February 10, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 977 – RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Hearing: February 10, 2017, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this Administration measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to abolish the Hawaii Health Authority.

The Hawaii Health Authority ("Authority") was established by Act 11, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, to be responsible for overall health planning for the State and to develop a comprehensive plan to provide universal health care in Hawaii. However, the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) and the Health Care Innovation Office also conduct comprehensive health planning activities. SHPDA in particular, in contrast to the Authority, has full-time staff and a budget. Furthermore, the private healthcare sector continues to evolve rapidly in response to federal policy changes, new business models, and new technologies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



LATE

February 15, 2017

TIM VANDEVEER
Chair
MARIE STRAZAR
Vice Chair

MARGARET WILLE
SEAN SMITH
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

SB977
RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HEALTH AUTHORITY
Friday, February 10, 2017 8:30 pm State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Committee On Judiciary And Labor
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Submitted on Behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly opposes** SB977 "Relating To the Hawaiian Health Authority" the intent of which is to abolish the Hawaiian Health Authority. **DPH is disturbed this bill is being introduced and considered when one of DPH's legislative priority for the 2017 Legislative Session is to revitalize the Hawaiian Health Authority so it may provide the legislature with direction and options for establishing a state universal health program.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tim Vandever (tim@hawaiidemocrats.org)
Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i
/s/ Marie (Dolly) Strazar (hilomds@gmail.com)
Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i
/s/ Margaret Wille (margaretwille@mac.com)
/s/ Sean Smith (simashang@yahoo.com)
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

PO Box 2041 Honolulu, HI 96805 ☐ (808) 596-2980 ☐ www.hawaiidemocrats.org ☐ info@hawaiidemocrats.org

baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 6:48 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: neil.vonhof@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM*

LATE

SB977

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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baker4 - Mary Kate

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Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 6:45 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: tracy.emills@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM*

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: bob-marion@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 4:28 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: SB977

LATE

Aloha Senator Baker and members of the Senate Health Committee,

Tomorrow you will hear testimony on SB 977. My husband and I are urging you to consider opposing this bill to dismantle the HHA. Republicans in Washington want to repeal the ACA. They may also look at the states providing healthcare. In any case the HHA is a good vehicle to explore, and possibly create, and implement a healthcare system for our state. Now is the time to move in this direction as other state are. We would like to see the HHA funded and a director appointed.

Thank you,

Marion and Robert McHenry

3609 Kaweonui Rd

Princeville, HI 96722

baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:03 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: jzwiebel@cruzio.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

LATE

SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Zwiebel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I support the HHA. I do not support this bill. Trump is going to kill the ACA. Hawaii MUST step up and provide single-payer health care to all its residents.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:40 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: hondo4274@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Hondo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: SB977 "RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH AUTHORITY". Report Title: Hawaii Health Authority; Repeal. Description: Abolishes the Hawaii Health Authority. Please support movement towards a single payer system. We need to have control over the insurance.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:45 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: bfs@bfshermanlaw.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM*

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce F. Sherman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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To: CPH Testimony
Cc: honu.kerry@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerry L Kelley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I OPPOSE the abolishment of the HHA. Even tho there are other similar departments, the Hawaii Health Authority has been charged with and has been working on research and data gathering to establish a comprehensive Universal or Single-payer Health Plan for the populace of the state of Hawaii. With the threat of the new Federal Administration abolishing the ACA, it is critical that Hawaii move forward with expediency to establish a health care system that will cover ALL of Hawaii's residents, no matter their current health, age or employment status. The HHA has spent valuable time and effort that has resulted in accumulation of critical data as well as experience that the state cannot afford to lose at this time. The other programs have their own focus and agendas to accomplish and starting from the beginning of this process would not be expedient for time, personnel, or costs. Please keep the HHA viable and doing its important job for the state and its citizens. WE need a health care plan now; and the HHA is instrumental in bringing that to fruition. Thank you for your time.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 8:14 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: joshua@joshuakay.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Kay	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose SB977. The HHA is important, so that we can move forward toward a Universal Healthcare system in Hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 8:16 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: gentlewave@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM*

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Dinner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 8:24 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: rgraulty@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Reynaldo D Graulty	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a member of the Authority, I can truthfully say that the Abercrombie administration never gave the Hawaii Health Authority the financial and administrative support it needed to do the work the original legislation wanted it to do. If anything, they threw roadblocks and obstacles in its way and the people of Hawaii were the losers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure, which further underscores the opposition to the Authority by remnants of the Abercrombie administration.

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 8:33 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: grahamchelius@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

LATE

SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Graham Chelius	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Hawaii should 100% be single payer. I'm a doctor in Waimea and I hope we have single payer in Hawaii first in the nation!

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 8:41 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: mkchelius@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marisa chelius	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Single payer saves lives and saves money. No state is better situated for single health payer than Hawaii. Let's do this. Aloha

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:09 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: waikalulu@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Mukaida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I support a single payer health insurance system to reduce the administrative costs of healthcare.

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:18 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: lisakealacarter@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Keala Carter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Co-Chair Baker and Co-Chair Keith-Agaran, I do not want the Hawaii Health Authority to be abolished. It is an important part of our health care administration. Thank you for your consideration. Lisa Keala Carter

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:31 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: catgraham48@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Susan Graham	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: In light of the craziness happening at the Federal level, it is imperative that we, in Hawaii protect our own people because we cannot depend on DC. Please do not dismantle the Hawaii Healthcare Authority. We need it, now more than ever.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 10:27 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: jgrow@truman.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM*

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janice Grow-Maienza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 10:53 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: pjanesbrown@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM*

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Janes-Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 10:57 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: hotyogahilo@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM*

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon	Hot Yoga Hilo	Oppose	No

Comments:

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 10:58 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: tjdavies@juno.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM*

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
T.J. Davies	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 10:58 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: tjdavies@juno.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM*

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
T.J. Davies	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 1:29 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: katalina2008@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM*

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat McGlone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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CPH Testimony

From: Frankie Stapleton <frankiestapleton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 2:43 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: Oppose SB977 (please delete earlier email testimony entitled SB9771)
Categories: Late

LATE

LATE

Aloha e Chairwoman Baker and members of the Senate Health Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to the Governor's proposed bill eliminating the Hawaii Health Authority. People in rural Hawaii already have serious problems with accessibility to decent health care and that's not even taking into account what's coming down from the Federal level regarding health funding, et al. As a reporter, I used to cover SHPDA meetings when that organization had teeth; SHPDA does not have the kind of oversight and authority it had when first established.

Our state is committed to providing health care to all of its citizens and this is precisely the wrong time to consider doing away with the HHA. So I speak in strong opposition to this bill; my name is Frances K. Stapleton. I live at 14-803 Crystal Circle in Pahoia, 96778, and there isn't even an emergency room in Puna district which is almost the size of the entire island of Oahu. Thank you for your attention to this issue. Malama pono, Frances K. (Frankie) Stapleton

LATE

CPH Testimony

From: begoniabarry@gmail.com on behalf of Barbara Barry <gardenmeister@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 3:21 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: SB9771

Aloha Chair and Committee members,
I am writing you today to oppose the Governors Bill to kill the Hawaii Health Authority.
Mahalo,
Ms. Barbara Barry
Ha'iku, HI

baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 7:17 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: pualeafarm@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM

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SB977

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eloise Engman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to this measure.

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From: [Jim Brewer](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#); [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: AGAINST SB977 - DO NOT ABOLISH the Hawaii Health Authority
Date: Friday, February 10, 2017 9:33:44 AM

Do NOT vote to REPEAL the Hawaii HEALTH AUTHORITY
Healthcare costs are 20% of the US budget
A Hawaii Medicare for All, Singlepayer system would eliminate 30% of that cost
Canada's Medicare system costs 50% less than US healthcare---and is more comprehensive than ours

DO NOT REPEAL the HAWAII HEALTH AUTHORITY
Repealing it is extremely counterproductive---and only benefits the medical industry

Thank you for your attention
Renee Ing

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: fosters005@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB977 on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017 12:31:16 PM
Attachments: [DPH SB1269 Haw Health Authority.pdf](#)

SB977

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 10, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments: Reinstating, reappointing members and adequately funding the Hawaii Health Authority is one of the top legislative priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii and this bill does the opposite. Please see attached letter. The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i Contact Scott Foster, Chair 808-590-5880

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