



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**

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**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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**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

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**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**

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**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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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

**LATE**

**SB977**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bruce F. Sherman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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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

**LATE**

**SB977**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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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**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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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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**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

**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
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**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:09 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** waikahalulu@yahoo.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
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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**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

**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
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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**baker4 - Mary Kate**

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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

**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
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\*

**LATE**

**SB977**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janice Grow-Maienza	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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**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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**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**

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**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\*

**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
T.J. Davies	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**baker4 - Mary Kate**

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**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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
T.J. Davies	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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**baker4 - Mary Kate**

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**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\*

**LATE**

**SB977**

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kat McGlone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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## CPH Testimony

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**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 Pahoehoe, 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**

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**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**

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**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

**LATE**

**SB977**

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eloise Engman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to this measure.

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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**LATE**

**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

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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