

HB-2606-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:43:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY**

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2606 HD1.
RELATING TO TROPIC CARE.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 23, 2018

Room Number: 309

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified general fund appropriation to the Department of Health.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health acknowledges the value and interest in the
- 3 Tropic Care exercise, which brings much needed health care services to rural residents at no cost
- 4 to patients while assuring deployment readiness for the armed forces. In general, this exercise is
- 5 known as Innovate Readiness Training (IRT), and the Department of Health is grateful for the
- 6 interest of the Legislature in providing funds.
- 7 Tropic Care 2018 is scheduled for June 16-28 at Keaau High School, and the department
- 8 continues to work with the Hawaii County Council and other stakeholders to assure another
- 9 successful deployment. However, if enacted, the appropriations will take effect after completion
- 10 of this year's IRT. The Big Island conducts an IRT's only every other year and has not
- 11 submitted an application for 2019. The next exercise is planned for 2020, for which the
- 12 application is due this September. The department will continue to work with the Legislature
- 13 and Big Island delegation to assure the event's continuity.
- 14 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

HB-2606-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:40:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Self Advocates	Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council (non-profit organization)	Support	No

Comments:

My name Renee Manfredi. I am the President of the Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council. We have nearly 200 members statewide.

Our members represent individuals with disabilities and we are in **strong support of HB2606 HD1.**

Tropic Care provides free services to rural districts on the island of Hawaii have included physical examinations, dental treatment, eye examinations, eyeglasses, medication review, provision of some medications, and nutritional education. The Tropic Care program has also provided free transportation so that individuals are able to access the free medical services. Many of the self advocates on the neighbor islands have received services from Tropic Care, especially dental treatment which medicaid no longer provides for adults. And eyeglasses, Medicaid provides annual eye exams but will only pay for one pair of glasses every two years.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting strongly HB2606 HD1.**

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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LATE

February 23, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair
Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2606, HD 1 Relating to Tropic Care
Hearing Date: 02/23/18 – 11:00 am; House Conference Room 308

Hawai'i faces a major crisis in healthcare, and I want to thank you and the authors of HB 2606 for bringing the idea of Tropic Care forward. Every innovative approach helps to alleviate our shortage of healthcare providers and is welcomed.

I appreciate your hearing HB 2606, HD1, and hope you will act favorably on it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i