

January 30, 2017/2:45pm
Conference Room 016

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: SB 397 – Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I am writing in support of SB 397 which provides funding to continue the Hospital Sustainability Program for the fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

Hospitals are the cornerstone of health care delivery in Hawai'i, yet they face major financial challenges in providing health care for Hawai'i's residents. These challenges are largely a result of insufficient payments from the Medicaid program that do not cover the actual costs of care.

As the financial viability of hospitals is threatened, the constrained options and availability of health care facilities result in waitlisted patients and care settings that are inappropriate for patient's health care needs.

The continuation of the Hospital Sustainability Program through SB 397 will help to preserve and enhance access to health care for Medicaid recipients in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.