



TO: SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, VICE CHAIR

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

FROM: CHERYL VASCONCELLOS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HANA HEALTH

DATE: March 1, 2017

**TESTIMONY ON SB 971, SD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Hana Health provides comments on SB 971, SD1, Relating To Emergency Medical Services, in so much as it continues the Community Health Center Special Fund and assures support of the statewide comprehensive emergency medical services system through a general funds appropriation equal to what has been provided through the Emergency Services Special Fund in the past.

The Community Health Center Special Fund provides funding for Hana Health to serve 2,500 residents and more than 600,000 visitors annually. Hana, Maui is one of the most isolated areas in the state. Located fifty-seven miles from Wailuku, the trip takes approximately two hours along a single lane road with six hundred seventeen turns and fifty-six one-lane bridges. Hana has been designated by the federal government as a Medically Under-Served Population, a Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area, a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area and a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area. Hana Health is the only health care provider in the district, providing the full scope

of primary medical, dental and behavioral health care with a special emphasis on meeting the health care needs of the significant Native Hawaiian population.

In addition to providing primary care to this under-served community, Hana Health is an integral part of the statewide emergency services system, providing urgent/emergent medical treatment to seriously ill patients who either come to the health center on their own or are brought to the health center by ambulance. When needed, Hana Health coordinates transport of patients to the Maui Memorial Medical Center with the support of American Medical Response. This takes place seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2016, two hundred and fifty-four (254) patients were cared for **after** regular health center hours, including 59 (23%) visitors to Hana. This does not include the urgent care patients served during regular operating hours.

State funding for Hana Health is mandated by ACT 263 which guarantees continued state financial support to sustain the development of a community based health care program in the Hana District. **The state has met its obligation in this regard through the Community Health Center Special Fund.** Since, its inception, the special fund has provided Hana Health with a stable funding mechanism, assuring that needed medical care and support services would continue to be available in the Hana community. State funding has been used to successfully leverage federal dollars to support and expand needed health care in the district. Prior to establishment of the special fund, Hana Health was forced to secure an appropriation through the legislative process every year. This unpredictable approach to maintaining a health care delivery system in our remote community results in a loss of providers, erratic service delivery and subsequently poor patient outcomes.

We urge you to support the Community Health Center Special Fund, and appropriate the funds necessary for the operation of a statewide emergency medical services system. Thank you for your consideration.