



February 20, 2019

**To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance - Thursday, February 21, 2019; 11:00am; Conference Room
308**

**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1468, HD1 Relating to the Waianae Coast
Comprehensive Health Center (Supporting School Based Health Center Services at
Nanakuli High and Intermediate School)**

**Submitted By: Dr. Vija Sehgal, Chief Quality Officer, Dir. of School Based Health
Services, Pediatrician, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is grateful for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 1468, HD1 providing support to School Based Health Center (SBHC) services provided by the health center to Nanakuli High and Intermediate School (NHIS).

WCCHC has operated two SBHC since 2016, one each at Waianae High and Waianae Intermediate schools. A \$600,000 Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) new access point grant assisted with our ability to open these two SBHC.

In August 2018, responding to requests from the community, as well as an invitation from NHIS administrators, WCCHC opened its third SBHC on the campus of NHIS. Recognizing the high need for primary care and behavioral health services in this primarily Native Hawaiian population, we did so without the benefit of any Federal funding.

Our experience has demonstrated that SBHC improve access to comprehensive health care for adolescents who would otherwise not seek care, or have their health conditions contribute to high absenteeism rates. Through December of last year, our SBHC have served 2,795 students through 6,620 visits, with 95% of students returning to class immediately after having been seen.

Our operational model is lean, with one APRN and one Clinic Manager staffing each clinic. Additionally, we provide Behavioral Health services by a Licensed Clinical Psychologist whose time is split between now three of our SBHC sites. Most of the students seen at SBHC are WCCHC patients. We bill for all services provided.

High risk behavior surveys and depression screens which are administered to every student seen at SBHC have demonstrated significant behavioral health needs. Depression and anxiety are common and substance abuse rates are high. Suicide risk is significant, with 15% of WHS students seen having hurt themselves on purpose and 13% having ever attempted suicide.

Notable improvement has been shown in many individual cases after initiation of SBHC BH services. To date, 478 students have accessed BH services at SBHC through 1,567 encounters.

We are grateful for the DOE's support of this bill and agree with their recommendation of changing the bill's initial request of funding an APRN to instead fund a Licensed Clinical Psychologist to increase our ability to address mental health issues.

WCCHC requests \$200,000 per year to be appropriated to continue providing SBHC services, including expanding our behavioral health capacity, at NHIS.

Mahalo for our support of HB 1468, HD1.

Vija Sehgal MD, MPH, PhD
Email: vsehgal@wcchc.com
Chief Quality Officer
Director Pediatric Services
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
86-260 Farrington Highway
Waianae, HI 96792
Ph. 808-282-6665

HB-1468-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:48:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Mahi	Hawaii Dept of Education	Support	No

Comments:

As there are currently challenges in providing funding to the Department of Health to then allocate to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, our recommendation for consideration is to allocate the funding to the Department of Education, Office of Student Support Services with a designation that the monies be for the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area to establish a Behavioral Health Specialist (BHS) who is a licensed clinical psychologist for the Nanakuli High and Intermediate School Based Health Center. Additional support funding for the infrastructure, supplies and equipment are also included in the request. This is a similiar allocation process that was utilized in the 2018 legislative session for our Nanakuli - Waianae Alternative Learning Center funding.

Much appreciation for this opportunity to share with you how well our partnership with WCCHC supports the whole child, mind, body and spirit for educational success. This request will continue to address the ongoing needs of all of our keiki.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 21, 2019; 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 1468, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1468, House Draft 1, RELATING TO THE WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate \$200,000 in general funds for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and \$200,000 in general funds for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, for the Department of Health (DOH) to provide funding to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) position and various infrastructure improvements, including wi-fi connectivity and the purchase and maintenance of small equipment, for the continued operation of the WCCHC school-based health center located at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School;
- (2) Provide that the sums be expended by the DOH through a contract in accordance with Chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (3) Take effect on July 1, 2050.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1468, House Draft 1
Thursday, February 21, 2019; 11:00 a.m.
Page 2

WCCHC has clearly demonstrated its leadership in serving the health needs of our most vulnerable populations. As such, the appropriation of funds to assist WCCHC most definitely will serve the public good.

By working with the Department of Education to establish school-based clinics at public schools situated near their facilities, WCCHC has proactively and creatively worked to improve the health care outcomes of not only the students of the Leeward Coast, but they have enhanced the quality of life for their their families by providing intensive primary care services in a geographic location experiencing dire shortages of health care professionals. Clearly, WCCHC's school-based program is a beacon of hope for many of our most underprivileged citizens. Public support for this program is essential for the continuation of this vital operation.

For this reason, we urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

HB-1468-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:11:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1468-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:24:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

facsimile transmittal

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Fax: (808) 586-6201

From: Kimo Keaulana

Date: 02/20/19

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1468, HD1

Pages Including cover: 2

Urgent

For Review

Please Comment

Please Reply

Please Recycle

Please see attached Testimony in Support of HB 1468, HD1 Relating to Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center.

**Hearing: Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 21, 2019
11:00 am
Conference Room 308**

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**To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
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**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1468, HD1 Relating to the Waianae Coast
Comprehensive Health Center (Supporting School Based Health Center Services at
Nanakuli High and Intermediate School)**

Submitted By: Kimo Keaulana

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kimo Keaulana, resident of Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead, and a Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (Health Center) board member.

I am requesting your support of HB 1468, HD1 to ensure funding for our third school based health center on the Waianae Coast at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School.

We have seen the success of our school based services at Waianae High and Intermediate Schools since 2016. It is vitally important to provide the same level of services at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School. A full service clinic at Nanakuli High and Intermediate would assure that adolescents along the entire Waianae Coast have an avenue to address their health and mental health needs so that they can remain in school, achieve their high school diploma, and be supported to continue their education.

Mahalo for our support of HB 1468, HD1.

**Kimo Keaulana
kimokeaulana@gmail.com**

facsimile transmittal

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Fax: (808) 586-6201

From: Renee Rego

Date: 02/20/19

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1468, HD1

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**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1468, HD1 Relating to the Waianae Coast
Comprehensive Health Center (Supporting School Based Health Center Services at
Nanakuli High and Intermediate School)**

Submitted By: Renee Rego

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Renee Rego, and I am a Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (Health Center) board member.

I am requesting your support of HB 1468, HD1 to ensure funding for our third school based health center on the Waianae Coast at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School.

We have seen the success of our school based services at Waianae High and Intermediate Schools since 2016. It is vitally important to provide the same level of services at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School. A full service clinic at Nanakuli High and Intermediate would assure that adolescents along the entire Waianae Coast have an avenue to address their health and mental health needs so that they can remain in school, achieve their high school diploma, and be supported to continue their education.

Mahalo for our support of HB 1468, HD1.

**Renee Rego
rjr808@gmail.com**

facsimile transmittal

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Fax: (808) 586-6201

From: Ginger Fuata

Date: 02/20/19

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1468, HD1

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Nanakuli High and Intermediate School)**

Submitted By: Ginger Fuata

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ginger Fuata, resident of Waianae for over 50 years, a mother, grandmother, and a Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (Health Center) board member.

I am requesting your support of HB 1468, HD1 to ensure funding for our third school based health center on the Waianae Coast at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School.

We have seen the success of our school based services at Waianae High and Intermediate Schools since 2016. It is vitally important to provide the same level of services at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School. A full service clinic at Nanakuli High and Intermediate would assure that adolescents along the entire Waianae Coast have an avenue to address their health and mental health needs so that they can remain in school, achieve their high school diploma, and be supported to continue their education.

Mahalo for our support of HB 1468, HD1.

**Ginger Fuata
gingerfuata@aol.com**

facsimile transmittal

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Fax: (808) 586-6201

From: Daniel Gomes

Date: 02/20/19

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1468, HD1

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Submitted By: Daniel Gomes

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Daniel Gomes, a lifetime resident and a Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (Health Center) board member.

I am requesting your support of HB 1468, HD1 to ensure funding for our third school based health center on the Waianae Coast at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School.

We have seen the success of our school based services at Waianae High and Intermediate Schools since 2016. It is vitally important to provide the same level of services at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School. A full service clinic at Nanakuli High and Intermediate would assure that adolescents along the entire Waianae Coast have an avenue to address their health and mental health needs so that they can remain in school, achieve their high school diploma, and be supported to continue their education.

Mahalo for our support of HB 1468, HD1.

**Daniel H. Gomes
dangomes@hawaii.rr.com**

facsimile transmittal

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Fax: (808) 586-6201

From: Candy Suiso

Date: 02/20/19

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Submitted By: Candy Suiso

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Candy Suiso and I am a Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (Health Center) board member.

I am requesting your support of HB 1468, HD1 to ensure funding for our third school based health center on the Waianae Coast at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School.

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Mahalo for our support of HB 1468, HD1.

**Candy Suiso
candysuiso@seariderproductions.com**

FAX

To: Fax User
Company:
Fax: 95866201
Phone:

From: Fax Sender
Fax:
Phone: 697-3746
E-mail: fhalemano@wcchc.com

NOTES:

facsimile transmittal

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Fax: (808) 586-6201

From: Kimo Keaulana

Date: 02/20/19

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**Kimo Keaulana
kimokeaulana@gmail.com**