



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 12:40 p.m., Rm 211

By

Bonnie Irwin
Chancellor

And

Carolyn Ma, PharmD, BCOP
Dean

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 2814 SD1 – RELATING TO THE HILO MEDICAL CENTER

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2814 SD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo and the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy fully **supports** this bill to appropriate funds to the Hilo Medical Center (HMC) for a second cardiac catheterization lab to help improve cardiac care services.

The HMC is the flagship hospital and is a key partner in training our students in both introductory and advanced experiential practice rotations. We place a full time Pharmacy Practice faculty in residence in HMC to teach and mentor our students. Having our students learn about the key components of all aspects of hospital care helps them to better understand the interprofessional complexities of patient care. Our faculty practice in the intensive care unit on the patient care floors in multi-disciplinary care teams that include medical students and residents, nurses and psychologists.

Pharmacists have long been involved in the supportive aspects related to medications utilized in the cardiac catheterization labs. In order to provide excellent patient care, hospitals need both excellent patient care from these types of medical teams, but also state of the art technology and facilities. In order to provide “best practice” patient care standards with one of the fastest growing communities in the state, HMC needs to add a second state of the art cardiac facility to address emergency cardiac events and to provide prompt follow up.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and fully support this bill.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 21, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2814, SD1 Relating to the Hilo Medical Center


Thank you for this opportunity to support a top-priority measure to improve cardiac care services at Hilo Medical Center, the only hospital serving the residents of, and visitors to, Hilo, Puna, Volcano, and much of the Hamakua Coast.

SB 2814, SD1 gives the Legislature an excellent summary of the importance, value and success that are associated with the previous appropriations that HMC received from you.

For better or worse, over the past few years, I have developed an ongoing and personal relationship with Hilo Medical Center (HMC) and a number of other medical institutions. HMC has given me excellent service, and Hawai'i should be very pleased with the quality of care it provides. However, HMC could do so much more if more resources were available, and better cardiac care has been identified as a priority.

Please act favorably on SB 2814, SD1, and please provide sufficient funding to make meaningful improvements in Big Island cardiac care. Such investments will result in saving lives and saving money, as SB 2814, SD1 effectively explains.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 1:11:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas J. Sawyer	Testifying for Hilo Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:

I am one of the cardiologists at Hilo Medical Center and can speak first hand to the significant need for a second cath lab. Full time cardiac care has been a wonderful advantage to our population and has allowed the vast majority of cardiac services to now be performed locally so patients and their families no longer have to leave the island.

The volume of patients has been more than anyone expected and, with only one lab, we are obviously able to treat only one patient at a time. This obviously limits the number of patients we can treat and also creates significant back up and inconvenience if an emergency occurs and elective patients are forced to wait for their procedure, or even have it cancelled and rescheduled for another day.

I hear positive feedback from patients every single day regarding the services we are providing and a second cath lab would only bolster our ability to provide care and services for the island.

Thank you,

TJ Sawyer, MD

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 1:14:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
eleanor Day	Testifying for HMC	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 5:12:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	Testifying for Hilo Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2814

RELATING TO THE HILO MEDICAL CENTER.

Makes an appropriation for the equipment and construction of a second full-time catheterization laboratory at the Hilo Medical Center in the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation East Hawaii Region.

Daniel Brinkman, East Hawaii Regional CEO of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 2814 SD 1** that appropriates funds the equipment and construction of a second full-time catheterization laboratory at the Hilo Medical Center in the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation East Hawaii Region.

The American College of Cardiology recommends interventional cardiac care as a best practice for treating heart attacks in rural areas like Hawaii Island. This funding supports Hilo Medical Center's efforts to advance interventional cardiac care that stops heart attacks in progress and reduces long term cardiac disability for the people of Hawaii Island.

Hilo Medical Center's interventional cardiology program has been providing high quality care over the last three years. In 2019, the hospital made great strides in welcoming four cardiologists, Dr. Carl Juneau, Dr. James Smith, Dr. Jamison Wyatt, and Dr. TJ Sawyer. Throughout the course of the year, they performed over 400 cardiac catheterizations, using the existing imaging equipment in the one cath lab at Hilo Medical Center. Sharing time among cardiology, interventional radiology and vascular surgery cases has maxed out the one cath lab. As it currently stands, the hospital believes that the program sustainable and is meeting its aim of saving lives and improving the quality of life for cardiac patients.

However, Hilo Medical Center estimates the number of cardiac catheterizations for 2020 are projected to reach over 500 cases. The demand for more cardiac care has

exceeded our current capacity and requires that we put in place a second cardiac catheterization lab. Hilo Medical Center has the momentum and infrastructure in place for a second cath lab to ensure our interventional services are supported and available consistently. We are asking the legislature for this one-time infusion of funding for our second cath lab, which when up and running will be fiscally self-sustaining.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to express my **support for SB 2814 SD 1** that appropriates funds the equipment and construction of a second full-time catheterization laboratory at the Hilo Medical Center in the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation East Hawaii Region.

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 6:21:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Gray, M.D.	Testifying for Hilo Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:

I am a retired Emergency Physician now serving as a volunteer member on the Board of Directors for Hilo Medical Center. I worked 15 years in the emergency department at HMC and have seen what happens when patients with acute cardiac events are forced to wait or travel to Oahu to receive appropriate treatment. Safe and effective treatment requires that we have the capacity to treat both elective and emergent patients 24/7. The hospital has been successful this past year in recruiting the required Cardiologists and training the needed staff. Your support of this capital expenditures to make a second catheterization lab available will ensure these doctors have the tools they need to treat all emergency cases within 90 min and for the program to become self supporting.

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 1:01:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Tulang	Testifying for Hilo Medical Center Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Formerly
HOSPICE of HILO

1011 Waiānue Avenue
Hilo, HI, 96720-2019
P: (808) 969-1733
F: (808) 961-7397

care@hawaiicarechoices.org
www.hawaiicarechoices.org

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2814 SD1
RELATING TO THE HILO MEDICAL CENTER
Hearing: Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 2814 SD 1** that appropriates funds for the equipment and construction of a second full-time catheterization laboratory at the Hilo Medical Center in the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation East Hawaii Region.

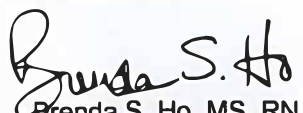
The American College of Cardiology recommends interventional cardiac care as a best practice for treating heart attacks in rural areas like Hawaii Island. This funding supports Hilo Medical Center's efforts to advance interventional cardiac care that stops heart attacks in progress and reduces long term cardiac disability for the people of Hawaii Island.

Hilo Medical Center's interventional cardiology program has been providing high quality care over the last three years. In 2019, the hospital made great strides in welcoming four cardiologists, Dr. Carl Juneau, Dr. James Smith, Dr. Jamison Wyatt, and Dr. TJ Sawyer. Throughout the course of the year, they performed over 400 cardiac catheterizations, using the existing imaging equipment in the one cath lab at Hilo Medical Center. Sharing time among cardiology, interventional radiology and vascular surgery cases has maxed out the one cath lab. As it currently stands, the hospital believes that the program is sustainable and meeting its aim of saving lives and improving the quality of life for cardiac patients.

However, Hilo Medical Center estimates the number of cardiac catheterizations for 2020 are projected to reach over 500 cases. The demand for more cardiac care has exceeded our current capacity and requires that we put in place a second cardiac catheterization lab. Hilo Medical Center has the momentum and infrastructure in place for a second cath lab to ensure our interventional services are supported and available consistently. We are asking the legislature for this one-time infusion of funding for our second cath lab, which when up and running will be fiscally self-sustaining.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to express my **support for SB 2814 SD 1** that appropriates funds for the equipment and construction of a second full-time catheterization laboratory at the Hilo Medical Center in the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation East Hawaii Region.

Respectfully,


Brenda S. Ho, MS, RN
Chief Executive Officer
HHSC-EHRB Member

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 11:03:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessanie Marques	Testifying for Kau Rural Health Community Association, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 12:50:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander Bazuzi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help expand the health care supporto in Hilo and the big island with this cath lab.

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 1:32:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chad Shibuya	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The first cardiac cath lab was a live saver for the community. But it is already at and beyond capacity at times. Please support funding a second one. It will not only add capacity to the system, but safety through redundancy as well.

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 3:36:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Katt MD, FACEP	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for allowing testimony. HMC needs a second cath lab to meet the needs of our community. The current lab is continually over booked. Critical, life saving procedures are delayed or not immediately available. We have four Cardiologists, two Interventional Radiologists right now and a Vascular Surgeon starting on March 15. That is 7 full time, excellently trained physicians providing essential medical services to our community. We need to provide to them the equipment to be able to work simultaneously. This will ensure immediate care for the critical patients and timely care for the scheduled patients. Please support HMC in its mission to provide excellent and essential medical services to our community that align with standard of care for the nation. Thank you, Kathleen Katt MD, FACEP Emergency Medicine physician working at HMC for 15 years

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 5:39:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

When someone on the outer islands is having a heart attack, every single second counts. We deserve the equipment to help save lives.

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 9:37:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Juneau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Since last year, 2019, we went from zero to a group of four permanent cardiologists, including 3 who are certified interventionalists.

We can now provide acute 24/7 cardiology care such as heart attack intervention and pacemaker placement. When a patient presents with an evolving heart attack, we have only 90 minutes to re-establish blood flow to their coronary arteries, "time is muscle". We open up arteries with angioplasty and maintain their patency using stents. We can also use pacemakers/defibrillators to keep the heartbeat regular. This saves cardiac muscle and thus saves lives. It has also saved us from having to transport these critical patients off-island which is costly in time and dollars. It also keeps them near their families while they receive care. So far, we have done nearly 1200 procedures, including 50 evolving heart attacks, 253 stents, and 163 pacemakers/defibrillators. We have done this using a single vascular lab which is shared with interventional radiology.

This single lab is the only one on the Big Island to provide this cardiac acute care for heart attack. In contrast, there are 15 vascular suites (Honolulu County 12, Maui 3) already operating on the other islands.

This single vascular lab is exceeding its schedule allowed for cardiology and is under constant strain. With only one lab, if a scheduled case is in process and an emergency comes in, we will be unable to give the best standard of care which is angioplasty.

If a second lab is operating, our facility could apply for STEMI Center status which requires at least a 2nd lab or hybrid.

There is a definite need for a 2nd Cardiac Catheterization Suite on the Big Island and I fully support this bill.

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 7:52:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Hamane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support the funding of a second catheterization room for Hilo Medical Center. The first room has made such a tremendous difference for those of us living on the Big Island but a second room is vitally important so that both preventive procedures as well as life saving procedures can be done at the same time. Currently, with only one room, only one procedure can be done and cannot be halted in the middle of it in order to do an emergency life saving procedure. Hilo Medical Center finally has the cardiologists we've needed. Please provide the facility so that we can best utilize their talent and kept them in Hilo. Thank you!

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 12:21:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Odetta Rapozo-Pung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Cath Lab: A service to the Community and Island that is needed.

Ka'u services for Mental Health: The mental health services is NEEDED and is currently in a Crisis mode----especially with the increase in Homlessness

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 3:36:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a medical doctor based in Hilo. In addition to actively working as a pathologist at Hilo Medical Center, I am also the medical director of the hospital lab, and have the privilege of serving on the board of directors for the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC).

Hilo Medical Center's cardiac program has come a long way in recent years, especially in the last year during which it began offering consistent interventional cardiology services. We now have three full time interventional cardiologists working out of one catheterization lab. The benefits of this service have been great, and we have seen lives saved. The benefits of treating on site instead of after delay of inter-island transport are tangible - with better patient outcomes. Also, the Hilo cardiology service has led to a decrease costly transfers from Hilo to Oahu. Our community needs this service.

In order to sustain and grow a program such as this, a second catheterization lab is needed to accomodate the routine and emergent patients. Please support SB2814.

Respectfully,

Stephen M. Smith, MD

Pathology, Laboratory Medical Director at Hilo Medical Center,

Member of HHSC East Hawaii Region Board of Directors

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 10:47:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Kanemoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

THE SENATE

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

[COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS](#)

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: [Tuesday, February 25, 2020](#)

TIME: [12:40 P.M.](#)

Conference Room 211

PLACE: State Capitol

[415 South Beretania Street](#)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2814

RELATING TO THE HILO MEDICAL CENTER.

Makes an appropriation for the equipment and construction of a second full-time catheterization laboratory at the Hilo Medical Center in the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation East Hawaii Region.

Wayne Kanemoto

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Again, mahalo for the opportunity to express my **support for SB 2814 SD 1** that appropriates funds the equipment and construction of a second full-time catheterization

laboratory at the Hilo Medical Center in the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation East Hawaii Region.

TO: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair



FROM: Fred C. Holschuh, M.D.

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 12:40 p.m., Conference Room 211

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB 2814

Thank you for hearing my testimony in support of SB 2814 appropriating funds to support a second full time catheterization laboratory at Hilo Medical Center. I was a co-founder of Hawaii Emergency Physicians Associated in 1971 and worked the first ER shift in Hilo Hospital in 1972 and spent the majority of my 30-year ER career in Hilo. Things have changed a great deal in the years we started in Hilo and I've been retired for 20 years. In October last year, I personally went into North Hawaii Hospital as a patient, had an apparent heart attack, was sent by air ambulance to Queen's and have 4 stents in coronary vessels I never had any idea were narrowed.

The population of Hawaii Island has grown. The existing cath. lab is shared with cardiology and other interventional specialties. I feel strongly as a Big Island resident, 30-year ER doctor and a recent patient that this second cath. lab is a necessity. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Fred C. Holschuh, M.D.

SB-2814-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 12:58:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: