

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

343

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 , 2021

RE: H.B. No. 706  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness, to which was referred H.B. No. 706 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist Wahiawa General Hospital with its long-term debt restructuring.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Wahiawa General Hospital and International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Local 142. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.

Your Committee notes that for over the past fifteen years, Wahiawa General Hospital has experienced severe financial difficulties, due to the impacts of several factors, including the reopening of Queen's Medical Center West Oahu in Ewa, Oahu; reductions in Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance requirements under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; the ongoing shortage of physicians in the State; uncertainty in the availability of federal and state funding caused by instability in federal health care policy; and an increasing need for the provision of indigent care that includes

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the homeless population. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated Wahiawa General Hospital's fiscal challenges.

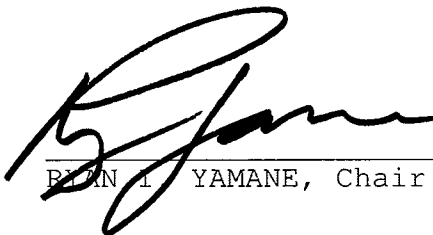
Your Committee recognizes that Wahiawa General Hospital is critical to providing a continuum of health care services in the State. It is a 53-bed acute care facility and 107-bed long-term care facility. This measure will enable Wahiawa General Hospital to restructure its long-term debt and position itself to continue its mission of serving the health care needs of Central Oahu, North Shore, and other communities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending the purpose section;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 706, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 706, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health, Human  
Services, & Homelessness,



RYAN YAMANE, Chair



