



**Testimony to the House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness
Tuesday, February 9, 2021; 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0963, MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR RELATING TO COVID-19 EXPENDITURES.

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and Members of the 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** Senate Bill No. 1117, MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR RELATING TO COVID-19 EXPENDITURES.

The bill, as received by your Committee, is part of the Administration's Package, and would appropriate \$20,000,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to be used as a contingency fund by the Office of the Governor to supplement the continuation of COVID-19 response related programs and activities.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved 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 healthcare.

Ever since COVID-19 hit Hawaii's shores, FQHCs have worked with our partner health care providers and the State Department of Health, the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and the City and County of Honolulu to plan and implement the enormous task of immunizing Hawaii's citizens. The federal government has helped enormously by fast-tracking the vaccine and paying for the hundreds of millions of doses that will need to be distributed throughout our Nation. However, the federal government is not paying for the administrative costs of delivering this medication to citizens. This includes, among other things, the purchase of needles, syringes, personal protection equipment, as well as the time of health care professionals away from their normal duties to perform this added responsibility.

Testimony on House Bill No. 0963
Tuesday, February 9, 2021; 8:30 a.m.
Page 2

Because these costs were not previously budgeted, the Administration has had to scramble to find resources within existing budgets to, among other things, start the immunizations of first responders and health care providers. That they had gotten us this far, the Administration should be commended for their creativity and willingness to work with the providers.

FQHCs have done our part as well. We have searched within our limited resources to make the plan work. This has forced us and our partner organizations to make sacrifices for the benefit of our patients and communities. We gladly do this but to continue these efforts, we will need help.

For these reasons, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this important measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND
LABOR & TOURISM
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 963

February 9, 2021
8:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference

**MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RELATING TO COVID-19 EXPENDITURES**

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) supports House Bill (H.B.)
No. 963.

H.B. No. 963 provides an emergency appropriation in the sum of \$20,000,000 in general funds to the Office of the Governor in FY 21 to continue funding for various coronavirus (COVID-19) response-related programs and activities. This bill provides that the Governor is authorized to transfer appropriated funds among all Executive agencies as deemed necessary, and authorizes the Governor to transfer funds in excess of what is needed for each expending agency from other emergency appropriation acts relating to COVID-19 expenditures for the purposes of this bill.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating to global, national, and state economies. Federal funds appropriated to the State of Hawaii by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Public Law 116-136, provided funding to implement and administer various COVID-19-related response, relief, and mitigation programs and

activities. Despite the federal assistance obtained by the State, additional funds from the general revenues of the State are needed to continue funding critical COVID-19 response programs and activities that may not be eligible for federal aid.

Funding appropriated in H.B. No. 963 is intended to be used for the continuation of the State's Safe Travels Hawai'i Program, COVID-19-related medical surge staffing, vital public health and safety, public welfare, economic recovery, and other appropriate COVID-19 response activities. Additionally, this bill shall take effect upon its approval, provided that all funds appropriated pursuant to this Act that are unallotted or unencumbered shall lapse as of June 30, 2022.

B&F supports H.B. No. 963 in providing assistance for disaster relief and the continuation of activities for the recovery and mitigation of the State from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments

LATE

HB-963

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 5:42:06 PM

Testimony for PDP on 2/9/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB963

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill

Since CARES ACT funding began on March 27, 2020, lack of transparency in government spending of the Federal monies has be sparse.

For this reason, unless there is a PUBLIC mechanism to show in an itemized method how previous funds have been spent, I will not support this bill.

In addition, the amount of Federal monies returned to lack of timing expending is also in question.

I do agree that continued funding is critical COVID-19 response programs and activities for the remainder of fiscal year 2020-2021. There is nothing in this bill that indicates where this money is needed. Therefore, as a citizen, if feel that the accountability of the expenditure is in question.

Using general revenues of the State of Hawaii in the suim of \$20M as a contingency fund to be used by the office of the governor to supplement the continued response to related programs and activies sounds great

This is another example of the misuse of the govenor's emergency powers. Regardless of whether "***the governor is authorized to transfer funds appropriated by this Act among all executive agencies as may be deemed necessary; and provided further that the governor is authorized to transfer funds in excess of what is needed for each expending agency from other emergency appropriation acts relating to COVID-19 expenditures for fiscal year 2020-2021 to the contingency fund as deemed necessary by the governor for the purposes of this Act***", it still oversteps boundaries.