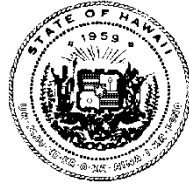


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 10, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [SCR 0081 SD1](#): **URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ENSURE THAT RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, COLLABORATE TO EXPLORE AVENUES TO ENSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICATIONS FOR THE STATE'S UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS UNDER THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM AND URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES TO MONITOR PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM.**

Hearing: April 11, 2024, 11:15 am  
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this resolution.

**PURPOSE:** This resolution affirms the State's interest in and support for ensuring access to affordable medications for underserved populations in Hawaii through the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

The Committees on Health and Human Services (SD1) amended the measure by:

- (1) Urging the Governor, rather than the Department of Health, to ensure that relevant state agencies, including the Department of Health and Department of Human Services, collaborate to:

- a. Explore avenues to collaborate with 340B hospitals and FQHCs, community pharmacies, and other stakeholders to ensure the continued accessibility to affordable medications for underserved populations in Hawaii; and
  - b. Work with pharmaceutical companies to ensure that the companies uphold their commitment to patient access to affordable pharmaceuticals by refraining from implementing restrictions that undermine the ability of 340B hospitals and FQHCs to serve their patients and communities;
- (2) Inserting language to include federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) as part of the covered entities participating in the 340B Drug Pricing Program;
  - (3) Amending its title to reflect its amended purpose; and
  - (4) Inserting as additional recipients of its certified copies, the Governor, Director of Human Services, and Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

DHS supports the resolution that aims to strengthen the intent and effectiveness of the 340B Drug Pricing Program and increase access to affordable medications for Medicaid members. DHS's Med-QUEST Division has issued guidance to 340B Covered Entities, QUEST Integration (QI), and Community Care Services (CCS) Health Plans on 340B Drug Pricing Program reporting requirements. The most recent guidance was issued in 2022 and strengthened reporting requirements on medications dispensed to Medicaid members through the 340B Drug Pricing Program. DHS will continue to monitor and enforce the program in Hawaii and will collaborate with the 340B Covered Entities when possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Health & Homelessness

From: Eric King, Director, 340B Program, The Queen's Health System

Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: April 11, 2024

Re: In Support of SCR81 SD1: URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ENSURE THAT RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, COLLABORATE TO EXPLORE AVENUES TO ENSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICATIONS FOR THE STATE'S UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS UNDER THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM AND URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES TO MONITOR PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM.

The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in **support** of SCR 81 SD1, which requests the Governor to ensure that relevant state agencies, including the Department of Health and Department of Human Services, collaborate to explore avenues to ensure continued access to affordable medications for the State's underserved population under the 340B drug pricing program and urging Hawaii's Congressional Delegation and relevant federal agencies to monitor pharmaceutical companies and take appropriate actions to protect the integrity of the 340B drug pricing program.

The Queen's Health Systems' hospitals relies on 340B program savings to stretch scarce federal resources to reach more patients and provide more comprehensive services exactly as Congress intended when they created the 340B program over 30 years ago in 1992. QHS 340B hospitals use affiliated and community based retail and specialty mail order pharmacies to expand the reach of the 340B program to allow patients to receive 340B drugs close to their home or work via a well-defined

*The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*

contract pharmacy network. These contract pharmacy relationships are required to adhere to all of the same rules and regulations governing the 340B program as the covered entity 340B hospitals.

Queen's 340B contract pharmacy networks have operated with great integrity since their inception, but in early 2020 as Hawai'i and the rest of the world was trying to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, a handful of the world's most profitable drug manufactures created unnecessary and burdensome barriers to 340B pricing. More than four years later, the number of manufactures nationally who restrict access to 340B pricing for hospitals has grown to 31. Many of the manufactures only allow shipping of their drugs to the 340B hospital parent or hospital outpatient clinics directly which is in direct conflict of the 340B program's intent of reaching more patients. These unilateral and unlawful manufacture restrictions cost hospitals billions of dollars annually in increased drug cost and lost revenue. In Hawai'i, the manufactures' 340B contract pharmacy policies, again in direct conflict with the Congress' stated intent for 340B, cost Queen's and other Hawai'i hospitals and health center millions in excess drug cost and lost revenue from their contract pharmacies.

Drug manufactures' desire to put profits over people by restricting hospitals' use of contracted pharmacy to dispense 340B drugs in the State of Hawai'i should be examined. We urge the Committee to pass this measure and send a clear message to drug manufacturers and the Congress that it is unacceptable for any drug manufacturer to deny a public or privately owned 340B hospital's distribution of 340B priced drugs to their contracted pharmacy. We also urge the Department of Health to examine legislation passed in other states (including Arkansas, Louisiana, and West Virginia) that preserves and strengthens the 340B program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR81 SD1.

Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 11:15 am  
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

**House Committee on Health and Homelessness**

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: SCR 81. SD1 – Testimony In Support**

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ENSURE THAT RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, COLLABORATE TO EXPLORE AVENUES TO ENSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICATIONS FOR THE STATE'S UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS UNDER THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM AND URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES TO MONITOR PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM.

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My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs for Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in **support** of SCR 81, SD1 which seeks to ensure continued access to affordable medications for the State's underserved populations under the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

The 340B Drug Pricing Program (340B Program) was established in 1992 to help shield facilities serving low-income and vulnerable populations from high and ever-rising drug costs, and to ensure that they can continue to provide expanded services to those underserved populations. Specifically, this program requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide a discount on outpatient drugs to eligible facilities. Those savings are then used to support essential services at hospitals and community health centers, such as oncology or women's health services.

In response to the restrictions imposed by pharmaceutical manufacturers on the 340B-acquired drugs, Arkansas and Louisiana have enacted 340B contract pharmacy laws that

prohibit actions by a drug manufacturer or distributor that would deny, restrict, prohibit, or otherwise interfere with the acquisition of a 340B discounted drug to a pharmacy that is under contract with a 340B entity. The Arkansas law was recently upheld by the US 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in March 2024. Twenty-two (22) other states have introduced 340B contract pharmacy bills.

In Hawaii, there are dozens of eligible entities, with 15 hospitals eligible for the program. HPH is among the hospitals participating in the 340B Program. The 340B Program enables HPH to expand access to care and provide more comprehensive services. Our network of community based pharmacies allow patients to receive 340B drugs close to home. Patients can and should be able to access their prescriptions from whichever pharmacy is most convenient and appropriate for them. However, pharmaceutical manufacturers have placed artificial restrictions on the program that denies hospitals and other eligible entities the savings Congress intended for them to realize in order to best serve their communities. This resolution is a valuable tool in ensuring the integrity of the 340B Program, and enabling our vulnerable populations to have access to the medications they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 11:15 am  
Conference Room 329

**Senate Committee on Health and Homelessness**

To: Chair Della Au Belatti  
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
AVP, Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Support**  
**SCR 81 SD 1, Urging the Department of Health to explore avenues to ensure continued access to affordable medications for the state's underserved populations under the 340B Drug Pricing Program and urging Hawaii's congressional delegation and relevant federal agencies to monitor pharmaceutical companies and take appropriate actions to protect the integrity of the 340B Drug Pricing Program**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

The 340B Drug Pricing Program (the 340B program) was established in 1992 to help shield facilities serving low-income and vulnerable populations from high and ever-rising drug costs, and to ensure that they can continue to provide expanded services to those under-served populations. Specifically, this program requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide a discount on outpatient drugs to eligible facilities. Those savings are then used to support essential services at hospitals and community health centers, such as oncology or women's health services.

Eligible entities under this program include federally qualified health centers and certain safety-net providers, including critical access or disproportionate share hospitals that serve predominantly low-income patients. This program does not use state or federal funds—instead, the discounts provided by pharmaceutical companies allow safety net providers to stretch resources as far as possible to improve the health of underserved communities.

In Hawaii, there are dozens of eligible entities, with 15 hospitals eligible for the program<sup>i</sup>. Of those 15 hospitals, six are HHSC hospitals, which are publicly funded by the state of Hawaii.

Other eligible entities include critical access hospitals that serve rural communities, such as Molokai General Hospital.

The benefits of the program have been under assault at the national level and across the country, with pharmaceutical manufacturers seeking to deny the intended savings to eligible entities. Our members have specifically struggled with restrictions levied by drug manufacturers on the use of contract pharmacies. Patients can and should be able to access their prescriptions from whichever pharmacy is most convenient and appropriate for them—however, pharmaceutical manufacturers have put artificial restrictions on the program that denies hospitals and other eligible entities from the savings that Congress intended for them to realize in order to best serve their communities.

We would note that the estimated benefit in discounts to 340B hospitals in 2022 was an estimated \$46.5 billion. This represents roughly 3% of global revenues for drug companies. Further, revenue growth in the United States for drug companies was \$331 billion between 2017 and 2022, while the discounts to hospitals provided to eligible hospitals was roughly \$30 billion. On the hospital side, costs for drugs overall has increased 20% since the pandemic, which affects costs that ultimately gets passed on to consumers through insurance premiums. Despite the increasing cost pressures for drugs, 340B hospitals provided just under \$85 billion in community benefits.

Dozens of states have initiated legislation on this matter, and there are federal efforts to address this difficult issue. Courts have also weighed in, with a ruling just last week in Arkansas validating state legislation to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for their participation in this important program.

We appreciate the legislature's continued interest in ensuring that every resident in Hawaii has access to needed services and urge the passage of this measure to help ensure that the integrity of the 340B program is maintained in the state. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> Hospitals in Hawaii that are 340B eligible include Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic and Hospital, The Queen's Medical Center, Adventist Health Castle, Hilo Medical Center, Kahuku Medical Center, Ka'u Hospital, Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital, Kona Community Hospital, Maui Memorial Medical Center, Molokai General Hospital, North Hawaii Community Hospital, Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital, and Wilcox Hospital.



April 11, 2024

TO: Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi and Members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America  
(William L. Goo)

RE: **SCR 81**  
Hearing Date: April 11, 2024  
Time: 11:15 a.m.

PhRMA represents the nation's leading biopharmaceutical research companies. PhRMA agrees that it is important to ensure the 340B program truly benefits the safety net which serves underserved communities in Hawaii. Unfortunately, as written, the resolutions are too broad and open the door to exacerbating existing problems in the program such as extending 340B pricing to contract pharmacies, which are not mentioned in the federal 340B statute.

Attached are proposed amendments which PhRMA asks be considered.

PhRMA understands the important role which the safety net plays in Hawaii and will work with other stakeholders to address any concerns.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ENSURE THAT RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, COLLABORATE TO EXPLORE AVENUES TO ENSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICATIONS FOR THE STATE'S UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS UNDER THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM AND URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES TO MONITOR PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM.

1           WHEREAS, the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program (340B  
2 Program) requires pharmaceutical companies to sell outpatient  
3 drugs at discounted prices to covered entities, including  
4 certain types of hospitals and federally qualified health  
5 centers (FQHCs), for the pharmaceutical companies' medications  
6 to be covered by Medicaid; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, more than two thousand six hundred hospitals were  
9 participating in the 340B Program as of January 2023; and  
10

11           WHEREAS, to be eligible for the 340B Program, hospitals  
12 must meet various criteria, which may include treating  
13 disproportionate numbers of low-income Medicare and Medicaid  
14 patients, as measured by each hospital's disproportionate share  
15 hospital adjustment percentage; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, the 340B Program plays a vital role in supporting  
18 access to affordable pharmaceuticals for eligible hospitals and  
19 FQHCs serving vulnerable populations across the United States;  
20 and  
21

22           WHEREAS, the 340B Program enables participating hospitals  
23 to stretch scarce federal resources to reach more eligible  
24 patients and provide comprehensive health care services to  
25 underserved communities; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, it is crucial to safeguard the integrity and  
3 effectiveness of the 340B Program to ensure continued  
4 availability of discounted medications; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, pharmaceutical companies have a responsibility to  
7 support access to affordable medications for all patients,  
8 including those served by hospitals and FQHCs participating in  
9 the 340B Program (340B hospitals), and should refrain from  
10 engaging in actions that hinder the ability of eligible  
11 hospitals and FQHCs to fulfill their mission of providing high-  
12 quality care to underserved populations; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, recent trends indicate that pharmaceutical  
15 companies are intentionally undermining the purpose of the 340B  
16 Program by imposing provisions that restrict the ability of 340B  
17 hospitals and FQHCs to utilize contracted pharmacies for the  
18 distribution of drugs under the 340B Program (340B drugs); and

19  
20 WHEREAS, these restrictions jeopardize the ability of 340B  
21 hospitals and FQHCs to effectively serve their patients and  
22 create unnecessary barriers to accessing affordable medications;  
23 now, therefore,

24  
25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor is urged  
28 to ensure that relevant state agencies, including the Department  
29 of Health and Department of Human Services, collaborate to:

- 30  
31 (1) Explore avenues to collaborate with 340B hospitals and  
32 FQHCs, community pharmacies, and other stakeholders to  
33 ensure the continued accessibility to affordable  
34 medications for underserved populations in Hawaii; and  
35  
36 (2) Work with pharmaceutical companies to ensure that the  
37 companies uphold their commitment to patient access to  
38 affordable pharmaceuticals by refraining from  
39 implementing restrictions that undermine the ability  
40 of 340B hospitals and FQHCs to serve their patients  
41 and communities; and  
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii congressional  
2 delegation and relevant federal agencies are urged to monitor  
3 and address any instances of pharmaceutical company actions that  
4 restrict access to 340B drugs and to take appropriate  
5 legislative or regulatory action to protect the integrity of the  
6 340B Program; and  
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
10 of Health, Director of Human Services, Hawaii's congressional  
11 delegation, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services  
12 Administration, and Administrator of the Centers for Medicaid  
13 and Medicare Services.





**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Homelessness**  
**Thursday, April 11, 2024; 11:15 a.m.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 329**  
**Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE CONCURRRENT RESOLUTION NO. 081, SENATE DRAFT 1, URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ENSURE THAT RELEVANT AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, COLLABORATE TO EXPLORE AVENUES TO ENSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICATIONS FOR THE STATE'S UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS UNDER THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM AND URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES TO MONITOR PHAMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM.**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 081, Senate Draft 1.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live 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.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would urge the Governor to:

- (1) Ensure that relevant state agencies, including the Departments of Health and Human Services, explore avenues to collaborate with 340B hospitals, community pharmacies and FQHCs, community pharmacies, and other stakeholders to ensure the continued accessibility to affordable medications for underserved populations in Hawaii; and
- (2) Work with pharmaceutical companies to ensure that companies uphold their commitment to patient access to affordable pharmaceuticals by refraining from

**Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 081, Senate Draft 1**  
**Thursday, April 11, 2024; 11:15 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

implementing restrictions that undermine the ability of 340B hospitals and FQHCs to serve their patients and communities.

This measure would also urge Hawaii's Congressional Delegation and relevant federal agencies to monitor and address any instances of pharmaceutical company actions that restrict access to 340B drugs and take appropriate legislative or regulatory action to protect the integrity of the 340B Program.

For more than thirty years, the 340B Program has provided critical resources that enable FQHCs and other program participants to deliver affordable and accessible health care services to the most underserved and vulnerable communities.

By law, FQHCs:

*“. . . must document that any non-grant funds generated from health center program project activities in excess of what is necessary to support the total health center project budget were utilized. . . to benefit the current or proposed patient population and were not utilized for purposes that are specifically prohibited by the health center program. . .“*  
[See, HRSA, Health Center Program Compliance Manual, August 20, 2018, p. 63.]

Over the past few years, statutory ambiguities have allowed other parties to claim the savings that were intended to accrue to the patients of FQHCs and other 340B providers. Because of this, the HPCA believes that the 340B Program must be preserved to ensure stability for Hawaii's safety net providers and enable them to effectively care for patients that otherwise would not have access to affordable health care services and medications.

The HPCA has partnered with AHARO-Hawaii, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, and Queen's Health Systems to educate policy makers on the need to protect and preserve this vital program. This coalition worked with the previous committee to refocus this resolution on how the State can best protect this vital program moving forward. In light of this, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this 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.



**WAIANAЕ COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER**

**Subject: Testimony In Support of SCR81 URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ENSURE THAT RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, COLLABORATE TO EXPLORE AVENUES TO ENSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICATIONS FOR THE STATE'S UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS UNDER THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM AND URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES TO MONITOR PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE 340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM.**

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness,

Mahalo for allowing us to provide this testimony today in strong support of SCR 81.

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is Oahu's largest federally qualified health center, founded in 1972. With a 51-year history of providing accessible, quality, and affordable healthcare, WCCHC remains committed to bringing quality healthcare within reach of everyone in the Waianae coast and adjacent communities in the West Oahu region.

For more than thirty years, the 340B Program has provided critical resources that enable FQHCs and other program participants to deliver affordable and accessible health care services to the most underserved and vulnerable communities. This program is critical to services we provide.

In recent years, statutory ambiguities have allowed other parties to claim the savings that were intended to accrue to the patients of FQHCs and other 340B providers. For this reason, WCCHC concurs with the HPCA that the 340B Program must be preserved to ensure stability for Hawaii's safety net providers and enable them to effectively care for patients that otherwise would not have access to affordable health care services and medications.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify,

Ian Ross  
Public Affairs Director  
ianross@wcchc.com

**SCR-81-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 9:21:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2024 11:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Rush	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution.