

August 11, 2008



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

INFORMATION BRIEFING REGARDING
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION (HHSC)

TESTIFIER: Joyce Afalla, Member, Executive Committee,
The FACE of Maui

DATE: Monday, August 11, 2008, 2008

TIME: 5: p.m.

ROOM: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc, Family Center Classroom
99 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, Maui

Chair Oshiro of the Committee on Finance and Chair Baker of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Joyce Afalla, a Member of The FACE of Maui Executive Committee. The FACE of Maui is a faith-based, inter-faith community and grassroots organization on Maui. We represent over 20 faith based, inter-faith community organizations and community services organizations on Maui. We reflect the religious, cultural and socio-economic diversity of our community.

On February 16, 2008, we participated in a first of a kind healthcare summit at the State Capitol to address the crisis in the access and delivery of healthcare to Hawaii's people regardless of their socio-economic status. As a Maui organization we are now aware of some of the contributing factors to our crisis.

- We have the lowest reimbursement in the country which is severely impacting our hospitals and physicians.
- We are one of two states with no Disproportional Share of Hospital (DSP) funding.
- The HHCS is the only healthcare safety net for our most vulnerable citizens and on the Neighbor Islands, the only choice for our residents.
- The HHCS is severely impacted by the wait-listed patient problem which not only adds cost to the hospital but also lessens access to hospital beds for those that need acute care.

The FACE of Maui, as a faith-based community grassroots organization believes that the Citizens of the State of Hawaii should all have access to quality education, affordable homes and healthy living ***with access to quality healthcare and our hospitals, physicians and other providers must be adequately reimbursed.*** The Legislature must request an early release of appropriated funds and request a loan from the Governor or an advance of additional funds necessary for the HHSC to make it through 2009. We need to protect HHSC while we work together as a community to find permanent solutions to reduce cost and make HHSC more efficient in providing healthcare to our most vulnerable citizens.