

HB 1373



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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To: **The Senate Committee on Human Services**
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

The Senate Committee on Health
The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1373, HD 1,
Relating to Health
Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO
March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association strongly endorses this measure. Hawai'i is fortunate to have a network of 14 independent nonprofit Community Health Centers that serve 110,000 individuals per year at 47 sites on six islands. In 2007, 31,600 of the people who got care at Community Health Centers in Hawai'i were uninsured. While Community Health Centers (also known as "Federally Qualified Health Centers" and referred to hereafter as CHCs or FQHCs) have succeeded in keeping growth in uninsured patients in check in recent years because they've been able to get those eligible enrolled in Med-QUEST programs, some are already experiencing rapid escalations in uninsured visits. For instance, Moloka'i 'Ohana Health Care had a 93% spike in uninsured visits during the latter half of 2008 as compared with the same period a year before. This is mostly attributable to the significant job losses on Moloka'i. Meanwhile, Kalihi-Palama Health Center, targeting immigrants, homeless, and low-income urban residents, had a 21% increase in uninsured visits during that period. Community Clinic of Maui reports that every week so far this year the number of newly unemployed seeking their services is increasing. All CHCs are braced for big increases in the months to come as the effects of increased lay-offs and reductions in hours are felt throughout the state. It is significant that FQHCs provide mental health and dental services since funding for those, too, are proposed for extensive funding cuts in the state budget.

It is our understanding the Department of Health plans to supplant general funds that support care for the uninsured with to-be-collected cigarette tax revenues for FY 2010. While we understand the serious budgetary concerns we as a state face, we strongly urge you to provide separate funds for the uninsured. The new cigarette tax revenues were intended – and desperately needed – for health center expansion of services, improvements in health IT and facilities, quality improvement and compliance needs, and for emergency preparedness. We also appreciate your support for ensuring that all cigarette tax funds that may become available for the FQHCs are paid out to them since the current budget draft includes a spending ceiling that would cap CHC funding at current DOH levels without accounting for increased demand or the planned elimination of the Immigrant Health Initiative. We believe that CHC funding needs for the uninsured during FY 2010 will exceed \$8 million. This modest investment in community health centers reaps a tremendous savings for the state's health care system.

FQHCs are also supported by the federal government, which supplies about 14% of their funds. Last week, we learned that federal stimulus payments will add about \$1.3 million to CHC payments for each of the next

two years. That amounts to between \$100,000 and \$342,000 per health center, sums for which we are very grateful but not enough to make up for the combination of increased needs and decreased state funding.

Community Health Centers use a model of care – referred to as the Patient-Centered Health Care Home – that maximizes resources while addressing the multiple needs of patients and their families. CHCs intensively manage the care of patients chronically ill with diabetes, asthma, and hypertension and bring their conditions under control. They work with families to link them to needed public insurance and other programs. They make sure patients get prescription drugs through free and discounted pharmaceutical programs like the 340B program. By offering accessible alternatives, Community Health Centers ease emergency room overcrowding and reduce hospitalizations for ambulatory-sensitive conditions. Because of the emphasis on comprehensive primary care coupled with care management, Community Health Centers' care for the uninsured alone saved Hawai'i's health care system \$29 million in 2007.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this measure which is one of the most important actions the Legislature can take to support Hawai'i's safety net health care system.

¹ According to a study by the Robert Graham Center that used Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Data, the annual cost for care for an uninsured patient served by CHCs is \$922 less than the average for uninsured patients. This figure multiplied by the 31,557 uninsured patients served by HI CHCs in 2007 equals \$29,095,554. The cost margin for publicly and privately insured patients is even greater, with CHCs reducing the cost per patient an average of \$1,810 resulting in a total savings to Hawai'i's health care system of \$194 million.



Democratic Party of Hawaii Kupuna Caucus

March 19, 2009

Re: Testimony

From: Patrick Stanley, Co-Chair Kupuna Caucus, DPH

To: Senate Committee on Health and Senate Committee on Human Services

Hearing Date: March 19, 2009, 1:45pm

Measure: HB1373 HD1 Relating to Health Care for the Uninsured

SUPPORTS: The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports this measure to provide health care for the uninsured of Hawaii through nonprofit, community-based health care providers. Community health and social services are a vital part of Hawaii's economy, no less than building bridges and housing.

At Convention in 2008, delegates to the DPH State Convention passed Resolution 08-18 calling for adequate health, social, housing and transportation programs for the families of Hawaii's Kupuna. HB 1373 HD1 is an important way to do so.

We believe that Hawaii can provide the means to protect the working and the non-working uninsured, their kekei, their families and their kupuna just as we have for most workers through non-bureaucratic, mandatory prepaid health insurance over the past four decades.

**COMMUNITY
CLINIC
OF MAUI**



Where Aloha is more than just a word

48 Lono Ave

Kahului, HI 96732

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SATELLITE CLINICS

Ka Hale A Ke Ola
Resource Center

670-A Waiale Dr.
Wailuku, HI 96793

Lahaina Comprehensive
Health Center

15 Ipu Amakua Lane
Lahaina, HI 96761

To: **Committee on Human Service**
The Hon. Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Health
The Hon. Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
The Hon. Josh Green, M.D. Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1373
Relating to Health**
Submitted by Dana Alonzo-Howeth Executive Director
March 19, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

On behalf of the Community Clinic of Maui and the many underserved residents we serve I humbly ask you to support HB 1373. Currently 71% of the patients we serve are at 100% or below the federal poverty level and in 2008 45% of all patients served were uninsured. We know it's not a question of if but how much more the uninsured rate will increase with the economic downturn. Sadly, more residents are becoming unemployed and faced with no health insurance for themselves and their families, as evidenced by what we are seeing daily. Moreover, they have no place to turn but our health center. We stand ready to care for our residents and with the support of this bill; the safety net we provide will remain as secure as possible. It is our understanding the Department of Health plans to supplant general funds that support care for the uninsured with to-be-collected cigarette tax revenues for FY 2010. While we understand the serious budgetary concerns we as a state face, these funds are desperately needed – for health center expansion of services, improvements in health IT and facilities, quality improvement and compliance needs, and for emergency preparedness. As CHCs we operate on razor-thin margins and these essential costs are always hard to cover and are not otherwise supplemented by state funds. The modest investment in community health centers given through this bill cannot be understated and will reap a tremendous savings for the state's health care system in the long run and in our communities in more ways than one, especially in these difficult economic times where health care is a precious commodity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Dear Chair Ige and Chair Chun Oakland,

Thank you for the opportunity to address your committees regarding HB1373, which provides funding to community-based nonprofit health centers that care for the uninsured.

The care provided to uninsured individuals in 2008 by Community Clinic of Maui (CCM) via some 8,000 encounters cost approximately \$1.5 million dollars, \$300,000 more than the combined amount of federal and state grants received to subsidize indigent primary care. While CCM was able to collect \$100,000 in patient fees, the remaining \$200,000 went unfunded.

CCM cannot afford to provide uncompensated care at this rate much longer and, with more and more workers losing their jobs, the increased demand for services anticipated in FY 2010 will adversely impact our operations without additional state funding. While Maui Memorial Medical Center struggles to remain afloat, it is unlikely they would be able to meet the primary care needs of the chronically and newly uninsured should CCM be forced to close its doors.

As you are aware, the additional tobacco tax was allocated specifically for the purpose of funding the increased numbers of uninsured patients seeking care at existing and new health centers. This was an acknowledgement by the Legislature that an increase in funding was needed BEFORE the current recession and higher demand. It was also a commitment by the Legislature to support health center expansions on O'ahu, Moloka'i and Lana'i made possible by a federal initiative.

The state and federal funds health centers receive to subsidize care for the uninsured further enable them to provide care for the underserved Medicaid population as well. Nationwide the Medicaid system saves an estimated 30% in annual spending per beneficiary served by community health centers, so whatever dollars the state might save by a decrease in funding derived from tobacco taxes, and then some, would surely be lost in increased Medicaid costs. That would be pennywise and pound foolish.

When a newly elected Lingle administration attempted to cut uninsured funding to health centers, both the Advertiser and the Star Bulletin opined that to balance the budget on the backs of the poorest and neediest in our state would be unconscionable. I am sure you will agree that remains as true today as it was in 2003.

Thank you for your consideration.

B.J. Ott,

CFO/Deputy Director

Community Clinic of Maui

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bj@ccmaui.org



WAIKIKI HEALTH CENTER

REACHING OUT FROM THE HEART OF WAIKIKI.

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

From: Sheila Beckham
Executive Director

Testimony in Support

House Bill 1373, HD 1, Relating to Health

Thursday, March 19, 2009 1:45 p.m. Agenda, House Conference Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Waikiki Health Center helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. The Center also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy.

- At Waikiki Health Center, many people are uninsured, because they cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. Likewise, these folks cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State. Waikiki Health Center serves residents of Waikiki and East Honolulu but also has an outreach clinic serving gap groups on the North Shore and in Windward Oahu.
- One third of Waikiki Health Center's patients are uninsured.
- Waikiki Health Center serves more than 4,000 homeless individuals annually through over 25,000 encounters.
- Nearly 97% of homeless individuals utilizing Waikiki Health Center's mobile medical vans are uninsured at their first visit.
- 42% of youth participating in the Youth Outreach Project are uninsured at their first visit.

Waikiki Health Center has unique programs targeting uninsured individuals such as the Youth Outreach Project, which offers a drop-in center and street outreach services for homeless, runaway, and street identified youth; and Care-a-Van Health Care for the Homeless program that provides drop-in and mobile primary health care and social services throughout the island of Oahu.

I am proud of the creative, dedicated Waikiki Health Center staff, striving to provide high quality and compassionate care for all our patients. Waikiki Health Center contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Date: March 17, 2009

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD Vice Chair

From: Phil Kinnicutt, Board Chair, Waikiki Health Center

Testimony in Strong Support of

House Bill 1373, HD 1, Relating to Health

Phil Kinnicutt, March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

I am the board chair of the Waikiki Health Center. I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



DATE: March 17, 2009

TO: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
FROM: Phil Kinnicutt
VIA FAX #: 808-586-6659
SUBJECT: Funding for Community Health Centers

**Testimony on HB 1373 for Senate Committee on Human Services & Health hearing,
March 19, 2009, 1:45 PM, Room 016**

1. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS BE PAID ALL THAT IS COLLECTED IN THE CIGARETTE TAX SPECIAL FUND EARMARKED FOR HEALTH CENTERS.
2. The needs for Community Health Center services are growing and we can expect them to rise significantly in 2009 because of the poor economy and loss of employer-based insurance.
3. The hospitals are also hurting and can't absorb additional uninsured people in their emergency departments.
4. Community Health Centers are both clinically effective and cost-efficient. Their savings per patient are at least double the cost of care.
5. Health centers also provide mental health and dental care. These are especially important to people who have lost their insurance. Both of these may also be suffering further cuts in the budget for next year so that CHCs will be relied on even more.
6. The Dept. of Human Services is planning to eliminate the Immigrant Health Initiative, which will leave another 1,700 people to rely on uninsured funds at CHCs.

Respectfully,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Kinnicutt".

Phil Kinnicutt
Board Chair,
Waikiki Health Center

**Waikiki Health Center
Board of Directors
277 Ohua Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815**

Date: **March 17, 2009**

To: **Senate Committee on Human Services**
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD Vice Chair

From: **Paul Kaleolani Smith**
Secretary
Board of Directors

**Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373, HD1 Relating to Health
March 19, 2009 1:45 p.m. agenda Room 016**

I am a Board Member & Patient of Waikiki Health Center. I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Waikiki Health Center helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be and stay healthy. At Waikiki Health Center, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that Waikiki Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Phone: (808) 553-5038
Fax: (808) 553-6194

MOLOKAI



COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER

Post Office Box 2040
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

From: Jane Woolsey RN, Director of Nursing, Molokai Community Health Center

Testimony in Support

House Bill 1373, HD1, Relating to Health

Thursday, March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Molokai Community Health Center (MCHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At MCHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

The Molokai Community Health Center opened in 2004 to serve all of the island of Molokai, an island with a big heart but with a high rate of poverty and many health care needs. We are still new and need to expand a lot to meet more of the needs of the whole island for dental and behavioral health services.

One in four of our patients is uninsured and 90% are below 200% of poverty.

As you aware, federally qualified health centers have a proven history of providing high quality comprehensive health care to the uninsured and underinsured, while maximizing resources. Community health center such as Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc. provide an array of services to address the needs of this high risk population. In Molokai, these services include medical, dental, behavioral, social, case management, outreach, and enrollment programs. Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc. greatly depends on our state funding for the uninsured to maintain these comprehensive services.

State reimbursement for uninsured patients, not only provide funding to continue these needed services, but enhance the services given to uninsured patients. In Molokai, these funds are used to help support medication, x-ray, and laboratory services for our uninsured patients. These clinical services often lead to decrease uncompensated emergency room visits and early detection of chronic illness, reducing the over all health care cost in Hawaii.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Molokai Community Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Phone: (808) 553-5038
Fax: (808) 553-5194

MOLOKA'I



COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER

Post Office Box 2040
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

March 18, 2009

Re: House Bill 1373, HDI, Relating to Health

To the Honorable Committee Members:

I am a Family Nurse Practitioner providing health needs to the people on Molokai. I have been a Registered Nurse for over 20 years. I strongly support this bill to restore monies that is greatly needed for the people of Molokai. The needs are great in rural areas throughout our nation. However, I truly can say that I have not seen such great needs as I have on the island of Molokai. They deserve better.

Societies are often measured how well we care for our young and old. Chronic illnesses such as Diabetes, Hypertension and Asthma are abundant in Hawaii. We know that health prevention is cost effective. Additionally, early intervention is a key to improving the quality of health needs. We strive here to raise the bar for the islands overall health; but need your support.

I hold onto the illusion that healthcare with dignity will be a reality for all. In the meanwhile help us help the people of Molokai. Help us so I do not have to tell women that they have advanced ovarian, or colon cancer. Help us so that a father does not feel the depression that comes with having advanced Diabetes and a foot with gangrene that is not improving. He must make a decision between financially supporting his family or the cost of amputation. Help us so that young fathers in need of surgery will seek our low cost services that will potentially save their lives.

With your support a difference is made to improve individual's health that will have a rippling effect. Aloha.

Thank You,

Mary Hoffman
Family Nurse Practitioner

Jacqueline Ng-Osorio, MPH

Communication & Advocacy Specialist

Hawaii Primary Care Association

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MOLOKAI



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Post Office Box 2040
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

March 18, 2009

Re: House Bill 1373, HDI, Relating to Health

To the Honorable Committee Members:

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With your support a difference is made to improve individual's health that will have a rippling effect. Aloha.

Thank You,

Mary Hoffman
Family Nurse Practitioner



Bay Clinic, Inc.

224 Haili Street, Building B • Hilo, HI 96720 • Tel: (808) 961-4071 • Fax: (808) 961-5167

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

From: Paul Strauss, Chief Executive Officer
Bay Clinic, Inc.

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373, HD 1, Relating to Health
Thursday, March 19, 2008, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

Bay Clinic, Inc. strongly supports this bill which provides funding to community health centers for the continued provision of vital health care to people who are uninsured. Bay Clinic health centers help keep people from over-utilizing emergency room and hospital services by providing integrated primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care. At Bay Clinic, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and many don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we provide services on a sliding fee discount basis serving all regardless of their ability to pay.

Bay Clinic, Inc. is the *only* federally qualified health center serving East and South Hawaii Island, a geographic service area of over 2000 square miles. This area is home to a growing population of 86,000 people who suffer from high rates of poverty, health disparities and/or a lack of health insurance. In fulfilling our mission to provide primary care to those in need, annually we serve over 14,000 patients providing over 50,000 medical, dental, and behavioral health visits. With the shortage of health care providers in our area, Bay Clinic remains the only option for many, especially those without health insurance. Last year we served over 2,100 uninsured patients by providing over 7,400 visits.

Bay Clinic is proud of the high quality and compassionate care that we provide to all of our patients regardless of their ability to pay. We ask your continued support in providing this vital funding to enable us to sustain and grow the provision of service to this vulnerable population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

March 17, 2009

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD Vice Chair

From: Robert Cooper, board member of the Bay Clinic, a Federally Qualified Community Health Center in Hilo

Testimony in Support

House Bill 1373 HD1, Relating to Health

Robert Cooper, March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

I am a Board Member of the Bay Clinic in Hilo. I strongly support this bill which, will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. I think you would be amazed at all the things that a community health center, such as Bay Clinic provides. We also offer health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At the Bay Clinic, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

If you were to spend some time at one of our health centers you would be surprised at what we do, and how efficient we do it. We also contribute to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

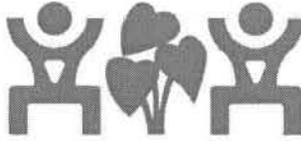
From: David D Derauf MD MPH
Executive Director
Kokua Kalihi Valley

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373, HD1, Relating to Health
Thursday, March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money Hawaii's community health centers need to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. This money will: 1) help keep people out of Hawaii's emergency rooms by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, as well as helping to defray the costs of generic drugs 2) help treat people with chronic diseases whose ongoing care can help avoid expensive complications requiring hospitalization and 3) help stabilize the finances of the community health centers who bear the brunt of outpatient medical care to Hawaii's uninsured population.

Kokua Kalihi Valley opens its doors to all residents of Kalihi Valley, to those with and those without insurance. Almost all of our patients have incomes below 100% of poverty, and many qualify for the Medicaid program, but every year at least a quarter do not qualify for any insurance at all and with such low incomes they can not possibly afford to purchase health insurance on their own. This money will allow us to continue to grow our services to try to meet the rapidly growing needs of this community. It will allow us to provide high quality, low cost services to a group who otherwise will only access health care when things have waited too long.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



ADMINISTRATION:
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KALIHI-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER
Hale Ho'ola Hou – House of New Life

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

From: Emmanuel Kintu, Chief Executive Officer

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373, HD1, Relating to Health
Thursday, March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Kalihi-Palama Health Center (KPHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At KPHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Kalihi-Palama Health Center serves one of the neediest neighborhoods in urban Honolulu which has over 20,000 residents. We also care for people – particularly uninsured people – who come from all over the island because we uniquely provide a wide variety of high quality health care with language interpretation services. While Honolulu is not suffering yet from a notable shortage of doctors, there are none who are able to take care of very many people who don't have health insurance.

Because the need for our services is overwhelming, we have grown steadily since opening in 1975 and now have nine clinical sites including a thriving healthcare for the homeless program. However, we still don't come close to meeting all the needs in the communities we serve.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Kalihi-Palama Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



KALIHI-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER is a 501(c)3 non-profit, federally qualified, community health care center.



ADMINISTRATION:
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KALIHI-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER
Hale Ho'ola Hou – House of New Life

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD Vice Chair

From: Darrin Sato, Chief Operating Officer

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373, HD1, Relating to Health
Thursday, March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m., Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Kalihi-Palama Health Center (KPHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At KPHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Kalihi-Palama Health Center serves one of the neediest neighborhoods in urban Honolulu which has over 20,000 residents. We also care for people – particularly uninsured people – who come from all over the island because we uniquely provide a wide variety of high quality health care with language interpretation services. While Honolulu is not suffering yet from a notable shortage of doctors, there are none who are able to take care of very many people who don't have health insurance.

Because the need for our services is overwhelming, we have grown steadily since opening in 1975 and now have nine clinical sites including a thriving healthcare for the homeless program. However, we still don't come close to meeting all the needs in the communities we serve.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Kalihi-Palama Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



KALIHI-PALAMA HEALTH CENTER is a 501(c)3 non-profit, federally qualified, community health care center.

KIUCHI & NAKAMOTO
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ASB TOWER, SUITE 1010 • 1001 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • (808) 521-7465 FAX: (808) 521-5873

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD Vice Chair

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1373, HD1
RELATING TO HEALTH
Submitted by Keith Kiuchi,
Board Member, Kalihi-Palama Health Center
March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m., Room 016

As a board member of the Kalihi-Palama Health Center, I strongly support this bill.

Kalihi-Palama Health Center (KPHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At KPHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

We ask the legislature to increase the amount of funding available for the uninsured for the following reasons:

- Every year, our uninsured appropriation gets used up before the end of the fiscal year.
- Uninsured funds don't pay for all the billable health care services we provide. Only a portion of our dental and behavioral health services are covered.
- The reimbursement rate is inadequate to cover our costs, even if the patient pays part of the bill. State uninsured funds should also help compensate for prescription drugs, diagnostic testing, outreach and follow-up, interpreter services, health education and counseling – all as necessary to improving health as a visit to a doctor.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill with my testimony.

Date:3/17/09

TO: *Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland*

*Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Ige, Chair*

FROM: *David Peters
Chief Executive Officer
Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i*

Testimony in Support

HB 1373, HD1 Relating to Health

Thursday March 19, at 1:45 p.m. (Capitol Room 016)

We recognize the financial situation that the state of Hawaii is facing and we are willing to do our part in helping those in need, but to do so with less funding and support is impossible. Please help us stay viable by supporting this bill which will restore needed funding to the only community health center on Kaua`i. Given the economic downturn in the past months we are running short of funding to support the current needs. This coupled with the fact that the Governor did not release the additional \$1 million appropriated last year by the legislature. This puts Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i in a financial bind that can only lead to cuts in staffing and services at our center.

Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i serves the entire island of Kauai which has nearly 62,000 residents, and 10% or 6200 have no health insurance. There is also a shortage of physicians here and none are able to take care of very many people who don't have health insurance.

Ho`ola Lahui Hawai`i is also the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for Kaua`i County which serves Native Hawaiians and their families with services culturally tailored to their needs in our clinics and communities.

We have grown steadily since we started the CHC in 2001 and have two sites in two of the neediest areas of the island: Waimea and Kapa`a. However, we still don't come close to meeting all the needs in the communities we serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD Vice Chair

From: May Akamine, RN, MS, Executive Director

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373, HD1 Relating to Health
Thursday, March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money for Community Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from using expensive emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. We also offer health education and help patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and do not qualify for QUEST (Medicaid). They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

WHC, which serves a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) in a Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA), is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system providing quality preventive and primary health and social services to our Ko'olaupoko communities targeting Waimanalo's 10,000 residents. We served nearly 4,000 people in 13,000 visits this past year; 30% of our patients have no health insurance. Another 45% have QUEST Medicaid. Not only do we serve the uninsured and underinsured, but also the poor, elderly, at-risk youth, homeless, and many others with financial, cultural, social and other barriers to care. In addition, we serve a large population of Native Hawaiians who have the worst health indicators (hypertension, diabetes, obesity, etc.) compared to other ethnic groups. About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders. While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care and social service needs.

Because 30% of our patients have no insurance, the State Department of Health's Comprehensive Primary Care funds is one of our major sources of funding. With so many growing demands and very few resources, we need to rely on State policy and funding decisions that support us to serve the indigent and those with no insurance. It makes a lot of economic sense to support this bill. If upfront, primary care is provided to Hawaii's people, we will save on the costly Emergency Room and hospitalizations that will, inevitably, be utilized when primary and preventive health care is not sought. I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that WHC provides all our patients. In addition, we are committed to make our community a better place to live by providing not only health services, but also jobs, training, and bringing our community together.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our FQHCs, our patients, and our communities. We urge your support for **HB1373, HD 1** which makes an appropriation for health care for the uninsured. Mahalo and Aloha!



Waimanalo Health Center

Ph. (808) 259-7948 Fax: (808) 259-6449
www.waimanalohc.org

41-1347 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

From: Christina Lee, MD, Medical Director

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373, HD1, Relating to Health
Thursday, March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money for Community Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from using expensive emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. We also offer health education and help patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and do not qualify for QUEST (Medicaid). They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

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Because 30% of our patients have no insurance, the State Department of Health's Comprehensive Primary Care funds is one of our major sources of funding. With so many growing demands and very few resources, we need to rely on State policy and funding decisions that support us to serve the indigent and those with no insurance. It makes a lot of economic sense to support this bill. If upfront, primary care is provided to Hawaii's people, we will save on the costly Emergency Room and hospitalizations that will, inevitably, be utilized when primary and preventive health care is not sought. I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that WHC provides all our patients. In addition, we are committed to make our community a better place to live by providing not only health services, but also jobs, training, and bringing our community together.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our FQHCs, our patients, and our communities. We urge your support for **HB 1373, HD1**, which makes an appropriation for health care for the uninsured. Mahalo and Aloha!



Waimanalo Health Center

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41-1347 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
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VERONICA TOMOOKA
45-705 Kuakua Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

From: Veronica Tomooka, Staff Member and Patient of
Waimanalo Health Center

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373, HD1, Relating to Health
Thursday, March 19, 2008, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. The Waimanalo Health Center (WHC) helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At WHC, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

Waimanalo Health Center serves an area with more about 10,000 residents, many of whom are Native Hawaiian. Our windward Oahu community has a high rate of poverty and residents have multiple complex health problems.

While we continue to grow and expand, our community still has unmet health care needs.

About 45% of our patients are Native Hawaiian and we're seeing an increasing number of Pacific Islanders and people whose incomes are below 100% of poverty.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that the Waimanalo Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

LĀNA'Ī WOMEN'S CENTER DBA LĀNA'Ī COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

P. O. Box 630142
Lāna'ī City, HI 96763-0142



Phone: 808-565-9196
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To: **The Senate Committee on Human Services**
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

The Senate Committee on Health
The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1373, HD 1
Relating to Health

Submitted by Diana V. Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACMPE, Executive Director
March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

The Lāna'ī Women's Center dba Lāna'ī Community Health strongly endorses this measure. We serve the uninsured, and are a significant part of the health care safety net, meeting the needs of people who have the most complex mixes of social, economic, and health problems. These include people who are homeless, impoverished, uninsured, enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare, who have special language, cultural, or mental health needs, and residents of rural island of Lāna'ī.

We provide primary medical, behavioral health, and dental services, and use a model of care – referred to as the Patient-Centered Health Care Home – that maximizes resources while addressing the multiple needs of patients and their families. Our patients include those chronically ill with diabetes, asthma, and hypertension. We work with families to link them to needed public insurance and other programs. We make sure patients get prescription drugs through free and discounted pharmaceutical programs like the 340B program. By offering accessible alternatives, our organization eases emergency room overcrowding and reduce hospitalizations for ambulatory-sensitive conditions.

It is my understanding the Department of Health plans to supplant general funds that support care for the uninsured with to-be-collected cigarette tax revenues for FY 2010. While I understand the serious budgetary concerns we as a state face, I strongly urge you to provide separate funds for the uninsured. The new cigarette tax revenues were intended – and desperately needed – for health center expansion of services, improvements in health IT and facilities, quality improvement and compliance needs, and for emergency preparedness. As we always operate on razor-thin margins, these essential costs are always hard to cover and are not otherwise supplemented by state funds. We anticipate the health care needs of our island to grow, as unemployment increases. As noted below, this modest investment in community health centers reaps a tremendous savings for the state's health care system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this measure which is one of the most important actions the Legislature can take to support Hawai'i's safety net health care system.

E Ola nō Lāna'ī

LIFE. HEALTH. and WELL-BEING FOR LĀNA'Ī



**KO'OLAULOA COMMUNITY HEALTH and
WELLNESS CENTER, INC.**

54-316 Kamehameha Hwy # 7, Hauula, Hawaii 96717
Clinic Telephone: (808) 293-9216 Fax: (808) 293-5390

March 19, 2009

To: Senate Committee on Human services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD Vice Chair

From: William G. Christoffel, Executive Director
Koolauloa Community Health and Wellness Center

**Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373, HD 1 Relating to Health
March 19, 2009**

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1373, HD1. The Koolauloa Community Health and Wellness Center has been serving the windward region of Oahu for the past 5 years. We have over 4,000 patients and had more than 11,000 visits during 2008. In the last six months we have had more than a 20% increase in the number of visits with approximately 23% uninsured.

I strongly support this bill which will restore money that Koolauloa and other community health centers need to provide excellent health care to the uninsured of the North Shore. Our health center provides a broad range of medical and behavioral health services. In addition, we offer health education, case management and provide pharmaceuticals to the uninsured. Many of our uninsured clients simply cannot afford health insurance and are not able to qualify for Med-Quest.

The Koolauloa community is relying on our center for their health care. We need your continued support so that we may continue to meet the needs of this community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

*Responsive to community needs
Promoting health and wellness in Ko'olauloa
IMUA!*

.....

03-18-09

TO: The Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Health

FROM: John A. H. Tomoso, Executive Director,
Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Inc., Native Hawaiian Health Care System

RE: Testimony on HB 1373, HD 1

Hearing on Thursday, March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m., Conference Room 016

Aloha mai nei,

I am in favor of this bill, which seeks to appropriate funds to provide health care for uninsured Hawai'i residents through nonprofit community-based health care providers. I believe that in these current economic times and climate, there is likely to be an increase in the number of adults in Hawai'i with no public or private health insurance. The network of Community Health Centers (CHCs) in our state continue to be the "front door" for this growing number of citizens who are uninsured. These CHCs, with whom the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems (NHHCS) are in partnership and collaboration, represent a network and continuum of care that is proven to be effective and cost-efficient in the delivery of health care and related services. This bill will further the reach and delivery of this network and continuum, which are really "safety net" features in the overall delivery of health care in our state.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW

CC: Maui CHC Network, HPCA, Maui JACOSA, POL-NHHCS

CC: Maui County State Legislators

Date: March 17, 2009

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health,
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD Vice Chair

From: Jo Ann Lau Kong
Patient Care Manager
Hamakua Health Center, Inc.
45-549 Plumeria St.
Honokaa, HI 96727

(808) 930-2733

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373, HD1 Relating to Health
March 19, 2009 1:45 p.m. agenda Room 016

I am an employee of the Hamakua Health Center. I strongly support this bill which will restore money my community health center needs to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. Hamakua Health Center helps keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. It also offers health education and helps patients get other services they need to be healthy. At Hamakua Health Center, people who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that Hamakua Health Center provides all its patients. It also contributes to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

To: **Committee on Human Service**
The Hon. Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Health
The Hon. Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
The Hon. Josh Green, M.D. Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB 1373, HD 1
March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. agenda, Room 016

I serve on the Board of the Hamakua Health Center on the Island of Hawaii, and am confronted with the increasing need of healthcare for the uninsured, and the cost of providing these services. I urge you to do whatever you can do in support of bill HB 1373, HD 1.

In these difficult times many people have lost or are losing their health benefits. We must make sure that all of us have at least health care. The State of Hawaii will be a better place taking care of its people.

Ada Pulin-Lamme
Board of Hamakua Health Center

Date: 3/17/09

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, MD Vice Chair

From: Kathy Sassi MSN APRN CHCNS-BC FNP

Testimony in Support
House Bill 1373 HD1, Relating to Health
March 19, 2009, 1:45 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

I am a Community Health Clinical Nurse Specialist and a Family Nurse Practitioner who has worked at Waikiki Health Center, currently teach Community Nursing at HPU, and work at Job Corps in Waimanalo. I have the opportunity to see the positive impact Community Health Centers make as well as the need for expanded service. I strongly support this bill which will restore money the community health centers need to continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. All community health centers keep people from needing emergency room services by providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care, and supplying prescription drugs. They also offer health education to clients and learning opportunities for health professional students including nurses and APRNs and help patients get other services they need to be healthy. I have frequently encountered patients who are uninsured, cannot afford to purchase private insurance and don't qualify for Med-QUEST. They also cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that Hawaii community health centers provide patients. They contribute to making our community a better place to live by providing health care, jobs, training, and a focus for bringing residents together. When members of the community are employed in their own community in satisfying jobs that contribute to community health there is a positive effect on all. But there are more people in the community we serve who need health care. We ask you to help us help them by increasing funds to care for the uninsured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

H.B. 1373, H.D. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

March 19, 2009

1 **Department's Position:** The Department opposes this measure due to the implementation of Act 316,
2 SLH 2006, (cigarette tax law) which provides funding for the operations of Federally Qualified Health
3 Centers ("FQHC") through the community health centers special fund.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified appropriation to be made out of the general revenues of the State for
5 fiscal year 2009-2010.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to provide direct health
7 care for the uninsured, which may include primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care. The
8 Family Health Services Division currently provides the same services described in Section 2 of the
9 measure for uninsured and/or underinsured individuals whose family income falls within 250% of the
10 federal poverty guidelines. Comprehensive primary care services are procured statewide on a
11 competitive basis and are delivered by both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

12 Act 316/2006 (cigarette tax law) established the community health centers special fund for the
13 operations of FQHCs. By the end of FY 2010, it is projected that the amount in the special fund will be
14 \$8,359,337. Therefore, in the Department's Executive Biennium Budget submission for fiscal years
15 2010-2011, the \$3,093,526 in general funds appropriated specifically to the FQHCs for the provision of

1 comprehensive primary care services is being reduced in its entirety and will be replaced with the
2 Community Health Centers Special Fund due to budgetary reductions effectuated by the State's
3 economic downturn.

4 The Department recognizes the importance of community-based organizations in providing
5 access and cost-effective care for Hawaii residents who are uninsured and/or underinsured and is
6 committed to providing primary medical, dental, behavior health, and support services to this
7 population.

8 Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

9