



## Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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To: **The House Committee on Health**  
The Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of House 1375**  
**Relating to Health**  
**Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO**  
**February 6, 2009, 9:00 a.m. agenda, Room 329**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association asks your support for this measure, which would direct the State Department of Health to pay out funds to Federally Qualified Health Centers so as to support transformation of FQHCs to patient-centered health care homes. The patient-centered health care home is an approach to providing comprehensive primary care that includes the following elements:

- Patients and providers maintain a continuous relationship that enables early and accurate diagnoses and treatment of health problems that may arise.
- The practice has a whole person orientation which includes family and socio-economic circumstances.
- Care is coordinated, managed, and supplemented so that patients can get the care they need. This often includes outreach, follow-up, active referral management, translation, transportation, assistance with applications for public benefits, counseling, and health education. Another plus for the model is the integration of medical and behavioral health to ensure timely care and reduce stigma. At most FQHCs, dental care and WIC nutrition are also available on site.
- Quality and safety are standard and will soon be supported at all FQHCs by electronic medical records and other technologies.
- Access is assured despite temporal, linguistic, economic or other challenges.

The last element of a successful patient-centered health care home is payment that adequately compensates for this model. Enhanced payment is entirely justified by the fact that this model of care saves our health care system an extraordinary amount of money – far in excess of the cost to cover all these services. These savings are due to early and accurate identification of health problems so that they can be addressed, reduction of referrals to specialists and duplicative diagnostic testing, drastic reduction of ER visits, and fewer hospitalizations for ambulatory-sensitive conditions. Several studies across the country have documented that the patient-centered health care home model results in tremendous cost savings as well as enhanced patient satisfaction.

This bill proposes to study this model and determine if it is an effective long-term strategy for funding FQHCs from whatever revenues are available, whether general funds, targeted cigarette funds, or other.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure and for the opportunity to testify in its support.



**Papa Ola Lokahi**  
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

## Papa Ola Lokahi

894 Queen Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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### Papa Ola Lokahi

is a nonprofit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

### Board of Directors

#### Member Organizations

*Hoola Lahui Hawaii*

*Hui No Ke Ola Pono*

*Hui Malama Ola Na OIwi*

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*University of Hawaii*

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### Ex-Officio Members

*Hawaii Primary Care Association*

*Ke Alaala*

### Executive Director

*Hardy Spoehr*

### TESTIMONY: HB 1375 Relating to Health

House Committee on Health  
House Committee on Human Services  
Friday, February 6, 2009  
9:00 am  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director

Aloha Chairs Yamane and Mizuno and Members of the House Committees on Health and on Human Services.

New approaches to how health care is provided to patients is no longer an option but a must. The FQHCs are developing the concept of the 'patient-centered health care home.' This is the most-promising new approach for health care delivery which is being developed nationally.

Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, supports this concept and this measure which would promote this new model here in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

nishimoto2-Bryce

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**From:** Richard Gore [docgore@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2009 10:00 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 709, 1373, 1375

**Dear Sirs:**

**I am a dentist providing care at the CHC on Kauai as part of Ho'ola Lahui Hawai'i. I see on a daily basis patients with no insurance that rely solely on our clinic to provide their care. I strongly recommend that you support HB 709, HB 1373, and HB 1375. Loss of uninsured funding which helps support our clinics would have far reaching effects on the uninsured of Kauai and the state of Hawai'i. Our providers constantly strive to provide state of the art care in a compassionate manner to these patients. Loss of uninsured funding and Medicaid benefits would have a significant impact on the dental health and general health of our patients. Thank you for your consideration in this extremely important matter.**

**Richard L Gore, DDS  
Dental Director, KCHC, Kapa'a Clinic  
Ho'ola Lahui Hawai'i**