

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee on Health  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Friday, February 6, 2009; 8:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 693, H.B. 701, H.B. 1372  
RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

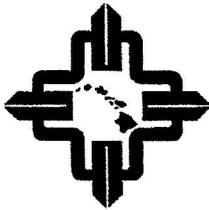
The ILWU Local 142 wishes to comment on: H.B. 693, which grants greater flexibility in administration to Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; H.B. 701, which requires specific actions to be taken before substantial reduction or elimination of direct patient care services can be implemented; and H.B. 1372, which authorizes the transitioning of regions and facilities of HHSC. We apologize for submitting one testimony on all three bills, but our comments are general in relation to Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

The ILWU represents some 20,000 union members working in various industries throughout the state. Most of our members and retirees live on the neighbor islands, some in very rural areas, and they rely heavily on the services provided through Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Any changes in the administration of HHSC could have major consequences for our members and retirees. If services are reduced or eliminated or HHSC is separated into smaller corporations which would compete with each other for state and other funding, we are concerned that patient care could be jeopardized.

We trust that the Legislature will consider the needs of these residents of Hawaii who have very few affordable options. The elderly person who falls and breaks a hip in Ka'u needs the emergency room at Ka'u Hospital to stabilize his condition. Although he will need to be transferred to another facility for acute care, the initial care must be provided in his community. That is the safety net services that HHSC provides. Ka'u Hospital, alone or even with the East Hawaii region, may not be able to attract the funds it needs to survive.

We understand the dilemma that some of the facilities and regions in the System are faced with, and we clearly don't have the answer. All we know is that the safety net for residents in rural areas must be preserved, whether it is provided by the regions or HHSC itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns on these three measures.



**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
C O R P O R A T I O N

*"Touching Lives Every Day"*

**The House of Representatives  
Committee on Health  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair**

Friday, February 6, 2009  
8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329  
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Concerning HB 693 Relating to Health Care Services**  
*Grants the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation greater flexibility in administration of hospital services by repealing provisions in the Hawaii Revised Statutes that require the Legislature to be informed of and approve of any reduction or elimination of direct patient care services*

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr.  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding HB 693.

The purpose of this bill is to allow Hawaii Health Systems Corporation the flexibility to appropriately adjust the levels of patient care services to be provided at HHSC facilities. HB 693 specifically provides this authority over Kahuku Medical Center. We support the intent of HB 693, however, we recommend utilizing HB 701 as the primary bill to address the adjustment of levels of patient care for the twelve HHSC facilities.

Kahuku Medical Center's affiliate relationship with HHSC provides them independent governance as a separate not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization. Service level changes come under the jurisdiction of Kahuku Medical Center governance through their Board of Directors. HHSC does not seek a decision role in this regard. We recommend tabling HB 693 as we focus our efforts to achieve flexibility to appropriately adjust patient care service level changes through HB 701.

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**Committee on Health**  
**Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair**  
**Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair**

Friday, February 6, 2009  
8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329  
Hawaii State Capitol

**HB 693** Relating to Health Care Services - Grants the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation greater flexibility in administration of hospital services by repealing provisions in the Hawaii Revised Statutes that require the Legislature to be informed of and approve of any reduction or elimination of direct patient care services

On behalf of the West Hawaii Region of HHSC, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning HB 693.

The purpose of this bill is to allow HHSC the flexibility to appropriately adjust the levels of patient care services to be provided at HHSC facilities. HB 693 specifically provides this authority over Kahuku Medical Center.

I support the intent of HB 693; however, I respectfully suggest that HB 701 could be used as the primary bill to address the adjustment of levels of patient care for the twelve HHSC facilities.

Kahuku Medical Center's affiliate relationship with HHSC provides them independent governance as a separate not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Service level changes are the the jurisdiction of Kahuku Medical Center governance through their Board of Directors. HHSC does not seek a decision role in this regard.

At this time, I would recommend tabling HB 693 as HHSC focuses its efforts to achieve flexibility to appropriately adjust patient care service level changes through HB 701.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl Greenia  
Chief Executive Officer  
West Hawaii Region - Hawaii Health Systems Corporation  
Kona Community Hospital and Kohala Hospital

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 1:53 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jwalker1@hhsc.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB693 on 2/6/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 2/6/2009 8:30:00 AM HB693

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: comments only  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jerry Walker  
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Submitted on: 2/5/2009

Comments:  
The Kauai Region which includes the West Kauai Medical Center / KVMH; West Kauai Clinics - Waimea, Eleele, Kalaheo; Mahelona Medical Center / SMMH, supports the intent of HB693, however we recommend utilizing HB701 as the primary bill to address the adjustment of levels of patient care for HHSC facilities.