

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.



**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 701 Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation - Requires specific actions to be taken before any planned substantial reduction or elimination of direct patient care services, at a facility of the Hawaii health systems corporation can be implemented

On behalf of the West Hawaii Region of HHSC, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 701.

This bill will afford HHSC the flexibility to appropriately adjust the levels of patient care services provided at its facilities and will reduce the existing administrative burdens by removing the requirement to obtain legislative approval.

Keeping with the intent and purpose of Act 290, this bill would assign decision responsibility to regional boards of directors and final ratification by the HHSC corporate board. However, reversal authority remains with the legislature should such oversight be required.

I support the process defined in this bill which requires forums for community input and discussion, and the requirement to prepare a sufficiently detailed plan outlining the purpose and expected outcome of changes to levels of patient care. Any plan will also take into consideration that impacts on employees will be subject to consultation/negotiation with respective unions in accordance with the collective bargaining agreements.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

*"Touching Lives Everyday"*

**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 701  
Relating to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation**  
*Requires specific actions to be taken before any planned substantial reduction or  
elimination of direct patient care services, at a facility of the Hawaii health systems  
corporation can be implemented*

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

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to allow the HHSC the necessary flexibility to appropriately adjust the levels of patient care services provided at its facilities.

The primary intent of the legislation that created HHSC was to free the facilities from burdensome and restrictive bureaucratic procedures. This bill will enable HHSC to move more quickly to respond to changes in the health care environment that are created by community patient care demands, resource availability and any newly available technologies.

This bill would remove the requirement to have legislative approvals for adjusting the levels of direct patient care service and place that decision responsibility with the regional Boards of Directors after a public meeting and with ratification by the Corporate Board of Directors. This is in keeping with the intent and purpose of Act 290 which moved more operational oversight and responsibility to the regional Boards for the

HHSC facilities serving the local communities, however final reversal authority remains with the legislature should such oversight be required.

This bill also defines a process to be taken before making any changes to the levels of patient care service. We support the described process that includes providing forums for community input and discussion, and the requirement to prepare a sufficiently detailed plan outlining the purpose and expected outcome of changes to levels of patient care. Any plan will also take into consideration that impacts on employees will be subject to consultation/negotiation with respective unions in accordance with the collective bargaining agreements in place at the time.

We respectfully request your support of this bill.

Thank you.

**nishimoto2-Bryce**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 1:46 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jwalker1@hhsc.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB701 on 2/6/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 2/6/2009 8:30:00 AM HB701

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
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 HB701. This bill would allow the local regional boards the ability to make the necessary changes to the level of services provided within our region. This is in keeping with the intent and purpose of Act 290 which gives operational oversight and responsibility to the regional boards.