

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

LATE

**House Committees on Health and Human Services**

**H.B. 0709, RELATING TO HEALTH**

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

**February 6, 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 fiscal year 2010, it is projected that the amount in the special fund  
14 will be \$8,359,337. Therefore, in the Department's Executive Biennium Budget submission for fiscal  
15 years 2010-2011, the \$3,545,379 in State funds appropriated for comprehensive primary care services is

1 being reduced for the FQHCs and will be replaced with the community health centers special fund due  
2 to budgetary reductions effectuated by the State's economic downturn.

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

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

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CARE

**HB709**  
**Relating to Health**

Committee on Health and  
Committee on Human Services

Date: February 6, 2009 Time: 9:00am  
Room: 329

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is pleased to support House Bill 709 calling for appropriations for quality low-cost health care through federally qualified health centers.

We offer an amendment to include the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems along with the federally qualified health centers as a provider of health care for the uninsured.

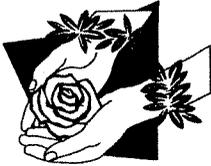
Congress is considering an amendment to title XIX of the Social Security Act providing 100 percent reimbursement for medical assistance provided to a Native Hawaiian through a Federal-qualified health center or a Native Hawaiian health care system. Should this measure pass, funds currently used to match reimbursement will be available within the Dept. of Human Services. We hope and encourage the State to support the Federal initiative and direct use of funds toward appropriations for quality for low-cost health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

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

**COMMUNITY  
CLINIC  
OF MAUI**



Where Aloha is more than just a word

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**SATELLITE CLINICS**

Ka Hale A Ke Ola  
Resource Center  
670-A Waiale Dr.  
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Lahaina Comprehensive  
Health Center  
15 Ipu Amakua Lane  
Lahaina, HI 96761

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 709**  
**Relating to Health**  
**Submitted by Dana Alonzo-Howeth Executive Director**  
**February 6, 2009, 9:00 a.m. agenda, Room 329**

I am the Executive Director for the Community Clinic of Maui and I am asking you to support this bill. Community Clinic of Maui alone has experienced a 10% increase in uninsured visits in the past 2 years, at a cost of nearly \$100,000. We know it's not a question of if but how much more the uninsured rate will increase with more businesses going out of business and employers laying off employees due to the economic downturn. Sadly, more residents will become unemployed and faced with no health insurance for themselves and their families. Moreover, they will 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 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.



**THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII**

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**TESTIMONY ON HB 709 RELATING TO HEALTH TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS  
FOR THE PROVISION OF DIRECT HEALTH CARE TO THE UNINSURED**

Committee on Health  
Committee on Human Services  
Friday, February 6, 2009  
Conference Room 329  
9:00 a.m.

Testifier: Joy A Marshall, RN, Health Committee, League of Women Voters-  
Hawaii

Chair Yamane, Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Nishimoato, Vice Chair Brower and  
members of the Committee on Health and members of the Committee on Human  
Services

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 709 relating to health to  
appropriate funds for the provision of direct care to the uninsured.

As our ranks of the unemployed grow thus the numbers of the uninsured  
increase we are aware that one of the first cost cutting measures persons and  
family's will do without will be appropriate and quality basic health care. As  
affordable primary care is unavailable their illnesses and injuries become  
unmanageable and they become ill and disabled.

The League of Women Voters goal is that all residents should have access to a  
basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and  
education and primary care.

The League supports funding through increased taxers to finance a basic level of  
health care for all residents.

We urge passage of HB 709

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 709



LATE

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

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

From: Darrin Sato, Chief Operating Officer

**Testimony in Support**  
**House Bill 709/House Bill 1373, Relating to Health**  
Friday, February 6, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Room 329

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

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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 HB 709/HB 1373**  
**RELATING TO HEALTH**  
**Submitted by Keith Kiuchi,**  
**Board Member, Kalihi-Palama Health Center**  
**February 6, 2009**

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.