

To: Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable David Ige, Vice Chair

From: May Akamine, RN, MS, Executive Director

**Testimony in Support of the Intent of SB1344 Relating to Health Care  
March 3, 2009, 9:30 am, Conference Room 229**

We support the intent of this bill which requires our State Department of Human Services to include in its request for proposals for QUEST providers, various provisions to safeguard against disruption of services that may be caused by positive enrollment. We highly recommend that “positive enrollment” be eliminated because it has caused confusion among QUEST beneficiaries and providers. Furthermore, it has delayed necessary medical care and has cost our State unnecessary expense in processing the required, pointless paperwork.

Waimānalo Health Center (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 serving our Ko’olaupoko communities and providing quality preventive and primary health and social services. We served over 3,300 people in over 18,000 visits in 2008; 33% of our patients have no health insurance; 43% are QUEST and QUEST Expanded Access Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid patients. Not only do we serve the uninsured and underinsured, but also the poor, elderly, at-risk youth, homeless, and others with financial, cultural, social and other barriers to care. Also, we have a disproportionate share of Native Hawaiians who have the worst health indicators (hypertension, diabetes, obesity, etc.) compared to other ethnic groups.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our health centers, our patients and our communities. We urge your support for SB 1344 with the elimination of positive enrollment. Mahalo nui loa for your support. ALOHA!



**Waimanalo Health Center**

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