

Testifier: Noelani Wilcox, APRN and private citizen in support of Public Health Nurses.

TO: Finance Chair Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Finance Vice Chair Representative Marilyn B. Lee and members of the Finance Committee

Hearing Date and Time: March 3, 2010, 1:30pm

LATE TESTIMONY

HB 2200 Relating to the State Budget

In eight words, when life happens Public Health Nurses have presence. The PHNs support many of the critical functions throughout DOH. Since 1897 Public Health Nurses have provided care for the vulnerable, frail, and poverty stricken. You will find Public Health Nursing in [§321-1.71].

- PHNs are your school nurses
 - We provide school health aide training and consultation
 - Administer school flu and H1N1 clinics
 - Develop Emergency Action Plans for children with complex health needs.
 - We assure that private nursing agencies meet the needs of medically fragile students.
 - PHNs provide clinical supervision to health aides, which PHNs are unable to provide with staffing cuts, shortages and furloughs as described in 2008 Session, HB 16.
- PHNs provide nurse managed services in community access sites for the uninsured; i.e., PHNs build capacities in vulnerable populations to self manage complex health needs. This is beyond the skill set of paraprofessional home visiting programs. PHNs are the required safety net for populations in our communities.
- PHNs provide early intervention across the lifespan.
- Prepare, respond, and assist communities in recovery during **disease outbreak and disasters.**
 - Work with the Medical Reserve Corps, other volunteer groups, and other agencies.
 - Participate in exercises that promote readiness.
 - Routinely use the Incident Command System (ICS).
- PHNs provide unsubsidized operational support to Disease Outbreak Control Division that received federal funding for H1N1
- According to the Association of State Territorial Directors of Nursing, **the ratio of PHNs to population should be 1:2500.**

County	Honolulu	Hawaii	Maui	Kauai
Current Ratio	1: 13,713	1:13,522	1:8,445	1:10,615

- Through the last 20 years, the Department of Health has re-described or cut nursing positions as a cost-saving measure. Unfortunately this has diminished Public Health. On behalf of Public Health Nursing I humbly request your support.



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LATE TESTIMONY

March 3, 2010

To: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair, House Committee on Finance

From: 'Ohana Health Plan

Re: House Bill 2200-Relating to the State Budget

Hearing: Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 1:30 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308

Since February 2009, 'Ohana Health Plan has provided services under the Hawai'i QUEST Expanded Access (QExA) program. 'Ohana is managed by a local team of experienced care professionals who embrace cultural diversity, advocate preventative care and facilitate communications between members and providers. Our philosophy is to place members and their families at the center of the health care continuum.

'Ohana Health Plan is offered by WellCare Health Insurance of Arizona, Inc. WellCare provides managed care services exclusively for government-sponsored health care programs serving approximately 2.3 million Medicaid and Medicare members nationwide. 'Ohana is able to take the national experience in providing an 'Ohana care model that addresses local members' healthcare and health coordination needs.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit our comments on House Bill 2200-Relating to the State Budget. We recognize the difficult task that you have before you in identifying the priorities and funding mechanisms for our State and know that the competing needs merit a fair and honest discussion.

'Ohana Health Plan (OHP) is one of the five health care plans contract under the QUEST program through the Department of Human Services (DHS). As a new plan, operating largely with the support of government funding from the State of Hawai'i, we are deeply concerned about the potential for a three to four month payment deferral. This deferral may impact our ability to pay our contracted providers in a timely manner and could cause a disruption in services to our members, which are low-income, aged, blind and disabled residents of our State. As a contracted provider of services for the State of Hawai'i, we take out federally mandated responsibility to make covered services available and accessible through a sufficient delivery network very seriously.

We greatly appreciate any efforts on the part the Legislature to provide enough funding into the DHS budget (HMS 401E) to ensure that DHS will be able to continue payment to their contracted QUEST health care plans in order to minimize potential disruptions in service, but we still remain concerned with the larger issue regarding the funding and sustainability of the overall Medicaid program, thus ensuring our ability to serve our most vulnerable members' health needs.

We respectfully request that this committee pass this measure with an amendment to ensure that enough funding is provided to ensure that QUEST health care plans can continue receiving timely payments. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on House Bill 2200.