SB2490

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR OF HAWAI



In reply, please refer to: File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

S.B. 2490, RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D. Director of Health February 5, 2010

- Department's Position: The Department of Health supports the intent of Section 2 and recommends
- 2 that Section 3 be struck in its entirety from this measure.
- 3 Fiscal Implications: Unspecified appropriation to be made out of the community health centers special
- 4 fund for fiscal year 2011, and an unspecified amount of these funds to be released by the Governor.
- 5 Purpose and Justification: The Department supports the intent of Section 2; however, we believe a
- budget ceiling can only be increased through the budgetary process. The current expenditure ceiling for
- 7 the community health centers special fund in fiscal year 2011 stands at \$6,591,526, and this amount is
- 8 insufficient to meet the operational requirements of community health centers. Cigarette tax revenues
- are projected to be in the range of \$11,135,000 by the end of fiscal year 2011. The current economic
- 10 recession and resulting job losses have increased patient load and are taxing the operational capacity and
- infrastructure of community health centers. It is recommended that the expenditure ceiling be increased
- to the level of anticipated revenues for fiscal year 2011 which will allow the community health centers
- to maximize the use of the cigarette tax dollars to support its operational requirements.
- The Department disagrees with the provisions contained in Section 3 and recommends that this section be struck in its entirety. The Department has been releasing cigarette tax revenues for purchase

- of service contracts to community health centers since July 2009 and intends to do the same for fiscal
- 2 year 2011 and beyond. These funds are allocated quarterly to the community health centers based on the
- available balances in the account. The Family Health Services Division ("FHSD") contracts with
- 4 thirteen federally qualified health centers ("FQHCs") to provide comprehensive primary care services
- 5 for uninsured and/or underinsured individuals whose family income falls within 250% of the federal
- 6 poverty guidelines. Approximately \$3,123,526 in cigarette tax revenues is being allocated for this
- 7 purpose in fiscal year 2010. In addition, FHSD has allocated cigarette tax revenues for contracts with
- 8 Hana Health (\$1,130,000) and the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (\$1,468,000) to provide
- 9 urgent/primary care and twenty-four hour emergency room services, respectively. Although all of the
- aforementioned contracts were previously State funded, these funds were replaced by the community
- health centers special fund effective July 1, 2009 due to severe budgetary reductions imposed upon the
- 12 Department.
- Finally, it should be noted that this measure stipulates that the amount of cigarette tax revenue
- 14 collected in fiscal year 2008-2009 is estimated to be \$9,000,000. This is an overly generous estimate.
- 15 The actual amount of cigarette tax revenues deposited into the community health centers special fund
- from September 30, 2008 (inception) to June 30, 2009 is \$2,021,317.
- 17 Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.



TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2490, RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: Friday, February 5, 2010 TIME: 2:55 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 016 LOCATION:

TESTIFIER(S): Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General, or

Michelle E. Nakata, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides these comments regarding a constitutional problem in this bill.

This measure would appropriate moneys from the community health centers special fund to be used by community health centers in the State. The bill in section 3 would also direct the Governor and the Department of Health to release funds to the community health centers.

The section of this bill directing the Governor and the Department of Health to release funds violates the separation of powers doctrine, and that portion is therefore unconstitutional.

The legislative and executive branches have distinct roles in the budget and appropriation process. Under the State Constitution, the authority to appropriate moneys for the working of state government rests with the Legislature. Once the appropriations bill has been enacted and the fiscal year begins, the legislative work is completed and it then becomes the responsibility of the executive branch to implement the Therefore, directing the Governor and the Department of Health to release funds would violate the separation of powers doctrine.

Testimony of the Department of the Attorney General Twenty-Fifth Legislature, 2010 Page 2 of 4

The Governor's authority to impose restrictions on moneys appropriated by the Legislature is specifically provided in article VII, section 5 of the Hawaii State Constitution which states that "[p]rovision for the control of the rate of expenditures of appropriated state moneys, and for the reduction of such expenditures under prescribed conditions, shall be made by law."

In <u>Board of Educ. of State of Hawaii v. Waihee</u>, 70 Haw. 253, 768 P.2d 1279 (1989), the Board of Education and others brought an action to challenge the acts of the Governor and the Director of Finance in connection with the budget appropriation for the Department of Education. Among other things, the Hawaii Supreme Court found that the Governor and the Director of Finance are authorized to impose spending restrictions on moneys appropriated by the Legislature.

The Governor's authority to restrict appropriated funds as authorized by article VII, section 5 of the Hawaii State Constitution is implemented through the allotment system which is set forth in sections 37-31 to 37-43, HRS. The allotment system requires departments to request the release of appropriated moneys from the Director of Finance or the Governor before the expenditure of such moneys can occur. The allotment requirement is the Administration's means of controlling expenditures consistent with Constitutional requirements.

Also, the Hawaii Supreme Court noted that section 37-31 states that

the policy and intent of the legislature that the total appropriations made by it, or the total of any budget approved by it, for any department [is] the maximum amount authorized to meet the requirements of the department . . . for the period of the appropriation . . . the governor and the director of finance [have been] given the powers [to effect savings] by careful supervision throughout each

Testimony of the Department of the Attorney General Twenty-Fifth Legislature, 2010 Page 3 of 4

appropriation period with due regard to changing conditions; and by promoting more economic and efficient management

70 Haw. at 265, 768 P.2d at 1286-87.

In finding that the Governor's one percent spending restriction imposed on the Department of Education's budget appropriations was constitutional and violated no statutes, the Hawaii Supreme Court noted:

In essence, the plaintiffs alleged the Governor interfered with the Board's implementation of the budget approved by the legislature when he imposed a one per cent spending restriction on the DOE. The Governor, the plaintiffs maintain, may impose such restrictions only if sufficient funds are not available. But "the policy and intent of the legislature [is] that the total appropriations made by it . . . for any department [is] the maximum amount authorized to meet the requirements of the department . . . for the period of the appropriation," and "the governor and the director of finance [have been] given the powers [to effect savings] by careful supervision throughout each appropriation period[.]" HRS § 37-31. Moreover, when advised by the director of finance "that the probable receipts from taxes or any other sources for any appropriation will be less than was anticipated, and that consequently the amount available for the remainder of the term of the appropriation or for any allotment period will be less than the amount estimated or allotted therefor," the Governor is obliged "to redetermine the allotment ceiling[.]" HRS \S 37-37(b).

70 Haw. at 268, 768 P.2d at 1288.

Consequently, while the power to appropriate moneys is a legislative function, the power to expend and manage such appropriations is an executive function. See Communications

Workers of America, AFL-CIO v. Florio, 617 A.2d 223, 235 (N.J. 1992) ("There is one thing the Legislature cannot do. It cannot exercise the functions of the executive. It cannot administer the money after it has been once appropriated.") (internal quotation marks, brackets, and citation omitted).

Testimony of the Department of the Attorney General Twenty-Fifth Legislature, 2010 Page 4 of 4

In implementing the budget, the Administration may impose restrictions on funding to address situations such as the uncertainty regarding the receipt of revenues or to ascertain whether a program's requirements would be satisfied by the expenditure of funds. Thus, restrictions are an essential tool in administering the State's budget.

Since the community health centers special fund as administered by the department of health would be part of the Executive Branch, it would be subject to the Governor's authority to restrict appropriated funds as authorized by article VII, section 5 of the Hawaii State Constitution. Therefore, the parts of this bill that would direct the Governor and the department of health to release appropriated funds would be a violation of powers and thus, would be unconstitutional.

We respectfully ask the Committee to amend this bill by deleting section 3 of the bill.

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490

Relating to Community Health Centers
Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer
February 5, 2010, 2:55 p.m., Room 016

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association strongly supports this measure, which would ensure that the cigarette tax funds identified for the use of community health centers (CHCs) are fully expended for that purpose.

They serve the "underserved," a population that is increasing not just among traditional groups – the uninsured, Medicaid enrollees, the impoverished, the homeless, Native Hawaiians, and immigrants or migrants – but also in rural areas across the state where the shortage of providers puts all community residents into the underserved category.

Although the purpose of creating the community health center special fund was to provide additional stable resources to build CHC capacity, last year it was used to supplant general funds that had previously been available to health centers to serve the uninsured and preserve access to emergency room services in Wai'anae and primary care services in Hana. Given the value of the CHC delivery model, Hawaii's poor economy, reductions in public services, population growth, and provider shortages, community health centers are needed in Hawai'i more than ever:

- Uninsured visits to CHCs grew by 7% over the course of the past year. The visit volume exceeds the number subsidized by DOH. This year at least one CHC has already exhausted its allotment for FY 2010
- When DHS dropped adult dental coverage as a Med-QUEST benefit, the result was an additional 100,000+ people who were unable to afford essential dental care, services which might be provided by CHCs if resources were available to expand capacity and cover operating costs.
- When DOH slashed its in-house capacity to provide mental health services, it left thousands of people with nowhere to turn for help except community health centers which are struggling with the severity of the conditions of these patients and limits of their own and other community resources.
- Community health center patients increased by 42% over the past five years, with an even greater growth (62%) at neighbor islands CHCs.
- The patient-centered CHC model of care addresses the health and access problems of the most vulnerable, provides high quality care, and saves a lot of money (\$128 million in 2008). Additional funds would help CHCs build capacity to do more and save more.
- As appropriate to the source of this special fund, CHCs could and should be expanding their tobacco
 cessation programs since their target groups are also the most likely to smoke. Money has never been
 available to adequately address these needs.

We all urge you to pass this measure and ensure that funds that should be available for these critically needed programs are appropriated and released. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.



February 5, 2010 2:55pm 016 Conference room

To:

Sen. David Ige, Chair

Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair Senate Committee on Health

From:

Paula Arcena

Director of Public Policy

Re:

SB2604 Relating to the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Special Fund

(Deletes the requirement that the director of health convene an advisory group to plan the development and implementation of prevention programs and make recommendations on expenditures. Transfers the responsibilities of the advisory group to the tobacco prevention and control advisory board. Amends composition of the tobacco prevention and control

advisory board. (\$))

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2604.

AlohaCare is a non-profit, Hawaii based health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's community health centers to serve low-income families and medically vulnerable members of our community through government sponsored health insurance programs. We serve beneficiaries of Medicaid and Medicare on all islands.

AlohaCare has been contracted by the Hawaii Department of Human Services since the QUEST program started in 1994 to provide insurance coverage for Medicaid eligible beneficiaries through the QUEST program. We serve approximately 70,000 QUEST enrollees statewide.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds from the community health centers special fund for use by community health centers to direct the state administration and the department of health to release the revenues in the community health centers special fund for use in fiscal year 2010-2011.

We support this measure because the financial stability of Hawaii's community health centers is critical to maintaining patient access to care in Hawaii. In particular, community health centers are a vital link to medical care for Hawaii's underserved and most medically fragile populations including the uninsured, Medicaid beneficiaries, homeless, Native Hawaiians, immigrants, migrants and rural residents.

AlohaCare has strong interest in assuring that community health centers have adequate funding because compared to other QUEST health plans, a larger proportion of our members rely upon community health centers for primary care. Of our 70,000 QUEST members, 44% receive their primary care from community health centers. This measure will help to insure that these members receive the care they need.

We urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important bill.

1357 Kapiolani Blvd, Suite 1250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

www.alohacarehawaii.org

From: Sent:

Sierra Spruce [sierraspruce@gmail.com] Thursday, February 04, 2010 7:18 PM

To:

HTHTestimony

Subject:

Re: SB2490 Testimony

Sierra Spruce, RDH Chair -- Regulation and Practice Committee Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association

SB 2490

DATE: Friday February 5th, 2010

TIME: 2:55 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 016 State Capitol

Committee on Health

Senator David Ige, Chair

Senator Josh Green, MD, Vice-Chair and

Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association supports SB 2490 which serves to release funds from the special revenue fund generated by the cigarette tax, to support the operations of community health centers in Hawaii.

Community health centers in Hawaii are vital to the care of our indigent, uninsured and underserved populations. The numbers of people needing care from these centers has no doubt grown with the current economic downtown resulting in loss of jobs, and loss of health insurance. Many people have nowhere else to turn.

Please support this Bill and see that the funds are appropriated and released for use by our community health centers in the fiscal year 2010-2011.

Mahalo,

Sierra Spruce, RDH

POB 2138

Kealakekua, HI 96750

808.939.7100

To: Senate Committee on Health

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Member

Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair Senator Will Espero, Member Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Member Senator Fred Hemmings, Member

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2490:

RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Hearing: February 5, 2010 @ 2:55 p.m. in Room 016

Submitted by: Richard P. Bettini, MPH, MS, Chief Executive Officer

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center Contact – 697-3457 or wcchc@wcchc.com

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center strongly supports this measure, which would ensure that the cigarette tax funds identified for the use of community health centers (CHCs) are fully expended for that purpose.

Community Health Centers serve the "underserved," a population that is increasing not just among traditional groups – the uninsured, Medicaid enrollees, the impoverished, the homeless, Native Hawaiians, and immigrants or migrants – but also in rural areas across the state where the shortage of providers puts all community residents into the underserved category.

Although the purpose of the community health center special fund was to provide additional stable funds to build CHC capacity, last year it was used to supplant general funds that had previously been available to health centers to serve the uninsured and preserve access to emergency room services at our Health Center and in Hana.

Funds for the emergency room are still essential. The emergency room is one of the most heavily utilized on Oahu. For the period July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009, 9,755 patients were seen through a total of 14,803 visits. The majority of emergency room visits are for conditions related to asthma, upper respiratory infection, complications from insulindependent diabetes, cardiovascular conditions such as chest pains and heart attacks, threatened labor, and injuries and wounds, many which are violence related. Time is crucial in many of these situations. The Health Center's ER is rated as a Type II facility for Hospital Capability for Readiness in time of a disaster/security situation and is designated as a Trauma Support Clinic by the State Emergency Medical System.

The Health Center has served the Waianae community since 1972 providing primary care, emergency medical services, and a wide range of other health and social services. In 2008, the Health Center provided primary care services to 27,002 individuals through 143,816 encounters. Sixty-four percent (64%) of users were below 100% of the federal poverty level; 14% were uninsured; and Medicaid/QUEST covered 51%.

Hearing: February 5, 2010 @ 2:55 p.m. in Room 016

age 2

The Waianae Coast continues to rank as an area in dire need of health, economic, and social services support. Based on the 2009 State of Hawaii Primary Care Needs Assessment Data Book, which compares 28 primary care service areas throughout the state, the Waianae Coast is:

Highest for the percentage of households with state financial assistance/food stamps;

Highest for the prevalence of adults with diabetes:

Highest for the percentage of obese adults;

Highest for adults with high blood pressure;

Highest for adults with no physical activity, and

Highest for cancer mortality and chronic heart disease mortality rates.

The Health Center is a safety net for the poor and underserved and needs the financial support that was intended by the community health centers special fund.

We urge you to pass this measure and release this funding which was intended for our Health Center and other CHCs across the state. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.



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> Uyanga Batzogs, MBA Finance Director

A 503 // 0/2

Waimānalo Health Center

Ola Hāloa The Sustaining of Life

February 4, 2010

To: Senate Committee on Health
The Hon. David Ige, Chair
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490
Relating to Community Health Centers
February 5, 2010 2:55 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

Please support Senate Bill 2490 which appropriates moneys from the community health centers special fund to be used by community health centers in Hawai'i.

As the President of Waimānalo Health Center's Board of Directors I am proud of the services that we provide to the community and all too familiar with the increased struggle in providing these services during these harsh economic times. I strongly support this measure which would ensure that the cigarette tax funds identified for the use of community health centers are fully expended for this purpose.

Community health centers across the State of Hawai`i provide an important safety net for the underserved populations including the homeless, the medically uninsured, Native Hawaiians, and immigrants. Over the past several months community health centers, such as the Waimānalo Health Center, have experienced a surge in the uninsured population. Over 50% of the new patients the Waimānalo Health Center serves are uninsured.

Although there has been an increased need for these vital medical services, organizations such as ours have also experienced nearly 50% cuts to most of our state-level funding. While state funding for mental health and dental health services have been reduced and more residents throughout Hawai'i are experiencing salary cuts and layoffs, many find themselves at our doors. And, despite the financial struggle, we continue to humbly serve them. At the Waimānalo Health Center we've implemented cost-saving measures and have focused our efforts on securing private funding. But, the need is too great for us to sustain much longer.

We strongly urge you to pass this measure and restore community health center funding where we are confident we can make an impact to the underserved community of our State of Hawai`i. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Andrew Jamila, Jr.
Board of Directors
Waimānalo Health Center
41-1347 Kalaniana`ole Hwy
Waimānalo, Hawai`i 96795



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Unlited Way

Waimānalo Health Center

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February 4, 2010

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The Hon. David Ige, Chair
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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490
Relating to Community Health Centers
February 5, 2010 2:55 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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As a member of Waimanalo Health Center's Board of Directors I am proud of the services that we provide to the community and all too familiar with the increased struggle in providing these services during these harsh economic times. I strongly support this measure which would ensure that the cigarette tax funds identified for the use of community health centers are fully expended for this purpose.

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We strongly urge you to pass this measure and restore community health center funding where we are confident we can make an impact to the underserved community of our State of Hawai'i. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D. Board of Directors
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41-1347 Kalaniana`ole Hwy
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Waimānalo Health Center

Ola Hāloa The Sustaining of Life

February 4, 2010

To: Senate Committee on Health
The Hon. David Ige, Chair
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490

Relating to Community Health Centers

February 5, 2010 2:55 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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Although there has been an increased need for these vital medical services, organizations such as ours have also experienced nearly 50% cuts to most of our state-level funding. While state funding for mental health and dental health services have been reduced and more residents throughout Hawai'i are experiencing salary cuts and layoffs, many find themselves at our doors. And, despite the financial struggle, we continue to humbly serve them. At the Waimānalo Health Center we've implemented cost-saving measures and have focused our efforts on securing private funding. But, the need is too great for us to sustain much longer.

We strongly urge you to pass this measure and restore community health center funding where we are confident we can make an impact to the underserved community of our State of Hawai'i. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Deborah Smith Board of Directors Waimānalo Health Center 41-1347 Kalaniana`ole Hwy Waimānalo, Hawai`i 96795



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Christina Kealoha Lee, MD Medical Director

Uyanga Batzogs, MBA Finance Director



Waimānalo Health Center

Ola Hāloa The Sustaining of Life

February 4, 2010

To: Senate Committee on Health
The Hon. David Ige, Chair
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490
Relating to Community Health Centers
February 5, 2010 2:55 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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We strongly urge you to pass this measure and restore community health center funding where we are confident we can make an impact to the underserved community of our State of Hawai'i. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Kathy Connor Board of Directors Waimānalo Health Center 41-1347 Kalaniana`ole Hwy Waimānalo, Hawai`i 96795

Waimānalo Health Center

Ola Hāloa The Sustaining of Life

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: February 2, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

CHIEF OFFICERS

Subject: I support SB 2490

Andrew Jamila, Jr. President

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Christina Kealoha Lee, MD Medical Director I strongly support this measure, which would ensure that the cigarette tax funds identified for the use of community health centers (CHCs) are fully expended for that purpose.

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Provider shortages, community health centers are needed in Hawai'i more than ever:

- •Uninsured visits to CHCs grew by 7% over the course of the past year. The visit volume exceeds the number subsidized by DOH. This year at least one CHC has already exhausted its allotment for FY 2010.
- •When DHS dropped adult dental coverage as a Med-QUEST benefit, the result was an additional 100,000+ people who were unable to afford essential dental care, services which might be provided by CHCs if resources were available to expand capacity and cover operating costs.
- When DOH slashed its in-house capacity to provide mental health services, it left thousands of people with nowhere to turn for help except community health centers which are struggling with the severity of the conditions of these patients and limits of their own and other community resources.
- Community health center patients increased by 42% over the past five years, with an even greater growth (62%) at neighbor islands CHCs.
- •The patient-centered CHC model of care addresses the health and access problems of the most vulnerable, provides high quality care, and saves a lot of money (\$128 million in 2008). Additional funds would help CHCs build capacity to do more and save more.

Please help to support our Community Health Centers with this vital bill. Mahalo for your Kokua!

Sincerely,

Christina K. Lee, MD Medical Director





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Maydene Simmons

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Christina Kealoha Lee, MD Medical Director

> Uyanga Batzogs, MBA Finance Director



Waimānalo Health Center

Ola Hāloa The Sustaining of Life

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. David Ige, Chair The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490
Relating to Community Health Centers
February 5, 2010 2:55 p.m. Agenda, Room 016
Submitted by May Akamine, RN, MS, Executive Director

Waimānalo Health Center (WHC) strongly supports this bill which directs the State Administration via the Department of Health to release moneys from the previously established Community Health Centers (CHCs) Special Fund to be used by Hawaii CHCs for its intended purpose. Although the original purpose of the CHC Special Fund was to provide additional moneys to build CHC capacity, however, last year the CHC Fund was used to supplant general funds previously budgeted to care for the uninsured and preserve access to emergency room services in Waianae and primary care services in Hana.

More than ever, CHCs are needed because of our poor economy, growth in the uninsured, reductions in public services, provider shortages, etc. We at WHC have seen 11% more uninsured patients this past year. In spite of most of our state contracts being cut by 50% and our running out of State funds to cover the cost of caring for the uninsured in January 2010, we will continue to serve our patients and anyone who needs medical, dental, mental health services. Because we have implemented cost-saving measures, improved efficiencies in our processes, and sought and received special purpose grants, we can do this only for a short time. However, to keep our doors open and continue our mission of service to our community, we need access to and full use of this 2007 Legislature-Approved CHC Special Fund.

It is vital that we continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. We help keep people from using expensive emergency room services by providing preventive and primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care. People who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and do not qualify for QUEST Medicaid. They cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

WHC, which serves a Medically Underserved Population in a Health Professions Shortage Area, is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system providing quality preventive and primary health and social services to our Ko'olaupoko communities targeting Waimanalo's 10,000 residents. We served nearly 4,000 people in over 18,000 visits this past year; 33% of our patients have no health insurance. Another 43% have QUEST.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that our providers give to our patients.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our CHCs, our patients, and our communities. We urge your support for **SB2490**, which allows the CHCs to use the Special Fund for health care for the uninsured and other intended purposes. Mahalo and Aloha!



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Mele Look, MBA

Elizabeth "Liz" Martinez

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ADVISORY COUNCIL

James "Jim" Kastner

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May Akamine, RN, MS Executive Director

Christina Kealoha Lee, MD Medical Director

Uyanga Batzogs, MBA Finance Director



Waimānalo Health Center

Ola Hāloa The Sustaining of Life

February 4, 2010

To: Senate Committee on Health
The Hon. David Ige, Chair
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490
Relating to Community Health Centers
February 5, 2010 2:55 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

Please support Senate Bill 2490 which appropriates moneys from the community health centers special fund to be used by community health centers in Hawai'i.

As the Development Director at the Waimānalo Health Center, I am proud of the services that we provide to the community and all too familiar with the increased struggle in providing these services during these harsh economic times. I strongly support this measure which would ensure that the cigarette tax funds identified for the use of community health centers are fully expended for this purpose.

Community health centers across the State of Hawai'i provide an important safety net for the underserved populations including the homeless, the medically uninsured, Native Hawaiians, and immigrants. Over the past several months community health centers, such as the Waimānalo Health Center, have experienced a surge in the uninsured population. Over 50% of the new patients the Waimānalo Health Center serves are uninsured.

Although there has been an increased need for these vital medical services, organizations such as ours have also experienced nearly 50% cuts to most of our state-level funding. While state funding for mental health and dental health services have been reduced and more residents throughout Hawai`i are experiencing salary cuts and layoffs, many find themselves at our doors. And, despite the financial struggle, we continue to humbly serve them. At the Waimānalo Health Center we've implemented cost-saving measures and have focused our efforts on securing private funding. But, the need is too great for us to sustain much longer.

We strongly urge you to pass this measure and restore community health center funding where we are confident we can make an impact to the underserved community of our State of Hawai'i. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Pi`ilani Kai, MSW, LSW Waimānalo Health Center 41-1347 Kalaniana`ole Hwy Waimānalo, Hawai`i 96795 TO: Senator David Ige, Chair Senate Health Committee

FROM: Sheila Beckham, RD, MPH

Executive Director, Waikiki Health Center

DATE: February 2, 2010

RE: SB 2490 Relating to Community Health Centers

On behalf of Waikiki Health Center, I urge your support of SB 2490 which will ensure that the cigarette tax funds are expended to support community health centers.

Community Health Centers (CHCs) provide medical and related services to underserved individuals residing in the community. These individuals are uninsured, poor, homeless, or otherwise marginalized by society such as those with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, or addiction.

Waikiki Health Center (WHC) had an 18% increase in visits during 2009 compared with encounters in 2008. Many of these patients are experiencing job loss, homelessness, and lack of medical coverage for the first time in their lives. Many individuals previously supported by Adult Mental Health Division case management services now seek the support of the WHC providers and staff for assistance with daily living activities.

CHCs provide cost effective, accessible, efficient and high quality health care for our most vulnerable population. We thank you for your support to fund community health centers and encourage the committee to enable funds to be released to CHCs.

Mahalo nui loa.

My testimony is in strong support for SB 2490.

Hawaii's poor economy plus the elimination of and/or reductions in many State-funded health care programs are putting increasing pressure on Federally Qualified Health Centers like the Waikiki Health Center. At the same time, the State is delaying payments of money owed to the health centers for services provided. This double whammy is pushing the centers to the brink of insolvency.

Community Health Centers are Hawaii's most cost efficient safety net health care providers. This bill would insure that cigarette tax funds identified for the use of Community Health Centers are fully expended for that purpose.

I urge you to support this bill.

Aloha, Phil Kinnicutt Board Member, HANO Former Board Chair, Waikiki Health Center

LÄNA'I COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

P. O. Box 630142 Läna'i City, HI 96763-0142



Phone: 808-565-9196 Fax: 808-565-9111

E-mail:

dshaw@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. David Ige, Chair The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490
Relating to Community Health Centers
February 5, 2010 2:55 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

Submitted by Diana V. Shaw, PhD, MPH, MBA, FACMPE, Executive Director

Lana'i Community Health Center (LCHC) strongly supports this bill which directs the State Administration via the Department of Health to release moneys from the previously established Community Health Centers (CHCs) Special Fund to be used by Hawaii CHCs for its intended purpose. Although the original purpose of the CHC Special Fund was to provide additional moneys to build CHC capacity, last year the CHC Fund was used to supplant general funds previously budgeted to care for the uninsured and preserve access to emergency room services in Waianae and primary care services in Hana.

More than ever, CHCs are needed because of our poor economy, growth in the uninsured, reductions in public services, provider shortages, etc. We at LCHC have seen a 300% increase in uninsured patients looking at Aug thru Nov of 2008 compared to Aug thru Nov of 2009! In addition to State contracts being cut, those contracts that remain are late in making payments to us and to Aloha Care (who in turn is late in making payment to us). As a new start, our cash flow position is weak — and limited/late State funding is exacerbating the problem. Because we have implemented cost-saving measures, improved efficiencies in our processes, and sought and received special purpose grants, we have been able to continue to increase our patient volume. However, to keep our doors open and continue our mission of service to our community, we need access to and full use of this 2007 Legislature-Approved CHC Special Fund.

It is vital that we continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. We help keep people from using expensive emergency room services by providing preventive and primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care. People who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and do not qualify for QUEST Medicaid. They cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on funding from the State to supplement coverage of this cost.

On Lana'i there is very little option regarding health care providers — this contributes to individuals either not seeking care, or having to seek care on other islands (thereby increasing their expenses). Therefore, LCHC, which serves a Medically Underserved Population in a Health Professions Shortage Area, is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system providing quality preventive and primary health and social services to our community targeting approximately 1300 low income un— and under-insured residents. patients have no health insurance Q

E Ola nō-Lānai LIFE, HEALTH, and WELL-BEING FOR LĀNAI



LANA'I COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

P. O. Box 630142 Lāna'i City, HI 96763-0142



Phone: 808-565-9196 Fax: 808-565-9111

E-mail:

dshaw@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that our providers give to our patients.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our CHCs, our patients, and our communities. We urge your support for **SB2490**, which allows the CHCs to use the Special Fund for health care for the uninsured and other intended purposes. Mahalo and Aloha!

E Ola no Lana'i LIFE, HEALTH, and WELL-BEING FOR LANA'I



HOʻŌLA LĀHUI HAWAIʻI

P.O. Box 3990; Līhu'e, Hawai'i Phone: 808.240.0100 Fax: 808.246.9551

Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. David Ige, Chair The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490
Relating to Community Health Centers
February 5, 2010 2:55 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

Submitted by: David Peters, Chief Executive Officer

Ho'ola Lahui Hawai'i strongly supports this measure which supports community health centers. Community Health Centers are essential to assuring that quality primary care exists. As a rural neighbor island community, HLH is committed to ensuring that all those with health care concerns get access to the care they need and deserve.

Health Centers are an important cost-saving, quality driven and community focused asset that are grossly underfunded. Only 3% of HLH revenues come from the uninsured funding as compared to many other states where health centers are supported at much higher amounts than HLH currently receives.

In these troubled economic times, health centers provide low cost alternatives to high cost emergency room visits and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations. It is an essential service that is vital to the survival of those most in need. HLH has long been underfunded in its efforts to assure that access to care for all including many of our Native Hawaiian friends and neighbors.

We urge this committee to do the right thing and recognize community health centers by supporting this bill. Please keep hope alive and provide the funding necessary to make an even bigger impact on those in need.



KAILUA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 31

P.O. BOX 487 • KAILUA, HAWAII 96734 PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: http://www.honolulu.gov

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 2490 RELATING TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Senate Committee on Health Date: February 5, 2009

Time: 2:55p.m.

Place: Conference Room 016

To:

The Honorable David Ige, Chair

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Health

From:

Claudine M. Tomasa, RN, Committee Chair

Kailua Neighborhood Board's Public Health, Public Safety & Civil Defense Committee

Re:

Board Action Supporting Senate Bill 2490

On February 4, 2010, the motion that the Kailua Neighborhood Board supports Senate Bill 2490 which appropriates moneys from the Community Health Center's special funds to be used by Community Health Centers in the State; and directs the Administration and the Department of Health to release the funds to the Community Health Centers was ADOPTED unanimously.

Please support and pass Senate Bill 2490 which allows the Community Health Centers to use the Special Fund for providing medical, dental, and psychiatric services for the uninsured and other intended purposes.

Thank you.

Cc:

Senator Jill Tokuda

Representative Pono Chong Representative Cynthia Thielen Representative Chris Lee

May Akamine, RN, Director, Waimanalo Health Center Chuck Prentiss, Chair, Kailua Neighborhood Board Kurt Rutter, RN, MSN, CCRN, CEN Instructor, Nursing Program Kauai Community College 3-1901 Kaumuali'i Hwy. Lihue, HI 96766

Hawaii Senate Committee on Health

Re: SB 2490

I am offering testimony in support of Community Health Centers (CHC) of Hawaii. Economic pressures have increased the enrollement and at and need for CHCs throughout Hawaii at the same time that budgets to run the centers have been cut. This is not in the best interest of the people of Hawaii and is a short term and myopic move that will harm our ability as a state to maintain our workforce and grow our economy in the future. A healthy population, especially children, along with education forms the bedrock of a society. CHCs form the backbone of our health and wellness infrastructure. Given the value of the CHC delivery model to the communities of Hawaii it makes sense to fully fund and support the CHC program throughout Hawaii. Community health center patients increased by 42% over the past five years, with an even greater growth (62%) at neighbor islands CHCs. I strongly feel that the health of all citizens of Hawaii is our strength.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Kurt Rutter, RN, MSN, CCRN, CEN

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490

Relating to Community Health Centers

Please support senate bill 2490 which would appropriate monies from the community health centers special fund. The bill would also require the Governor to release all of the cigarette tax revenues collected and deposited into the centers special fund for the operation of community health centers.

Community health centers (CHC) serve an underserved population. This population includes: the uninsured, Medicaid enrollees, the impoverished, homeless, Native Hawaiians, immigrants, and also people who live in rural areas where there is a shortage of providers.

Due to Hawaii's poor economy, reductions in public services, population growth and provider shortages, community health centers are needed in Hawaii more than ever.

- Community health center patients have increased by 42% over the past five years.
- Uninsured visits to CHCs grew by 7% over the course of the past year.
 The visit volume exceeds the number subsidized by the Department of Health.

Additional funds would help CHCs build capacity to do more for their community.

Mahalo-

Amy Bauchens



February 2, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, HI 96813 fax 808-586-6151 e-mail sendige@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: S.B. 2494 - SUPPORT

Dear Representative Ige,

National Cornerstone Healthcare Services (NCHS) is a healthcare service company dedicated to ensuring chronically ill patients obtain the necessary resources and tools to access individualized treatment to improve their quality of life, strongly supports SB 2494. SB 2494 requires health insurers to offer at least the same drug coverage to the insured that the insured had under the insured's previous policy with a different insurer or like entity. In other words, the bill will provide for continuity of drug coverage when a patient either switches health plans or renews their existing plans.

SB 2494 is very important for the Hawaiians who suffer from life-long illness such as hemophilia. Many Hawaiians affected by bleeding disorders are oftentimes high users of the health care system. Once a medication is effectively working most patients are able to live normal lives. Patients and providers alike expect to be protected by having continuity of medically necessary drugs when they switch from one health plan to another or when they renew plans during open enrollment periods.

Many patients have been successfully taking these drugs or medications for years and depend on them to function and take care of their families. SB 2494 would allow Hawaiians to continue using medically necessary medications and treatments prescribed prior to enrollment in their plan, whether or not the drug is covered by the plan, until the prescribed therapy is no longer prescribed by the patient's provider.

Please help hemophilia patients and others who suffer from chronic illnesses by supporting this patient protection bill that directly strengthens the doctor patient relationship. Should you have any questions please contact me at 877-616-6247.

Regards,

David Espinosa President

cc: Senate Health Committee

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Tuesday, February 02, 2010 10:13 AM

To: Cc: HTHTestimony lisa2sail@aol.com

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Flag Status:

Follow up Flagged

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Lisa Paulson Organization: Individual

Address: 29 Hoe Place Paia, HI 96779

Phone: 808-579-8719

E-mail: lisa2sail@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2010

Comments:

With the continuation of the recession and the amount of job losses Maui has seen in 2009 - the Communtiy Clinic of Maui is in great need of additional support. Also, County Funding will be non-existent for the Clinic for 2010-11. Please support funding for our precious health centers in Hawaii!

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Tuesday, February 02, 2010 4:32 PM

To: Cc: HTHTestimony dlching@aol.com

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Donna L. Ching Organization: Individual

Address: 2212A Wilder Ave Honolulu, Hawaii

Phone: 944-4070

E-mail: dlching@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2010

Comments:

Thank you for supporting funding for the most essential services such as those delivered by community health centers.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Wednesday, February 03, 2010 7:52 AM

To:

HTHTestimony hlee@uhahealth.com

Cc: Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Howard Lee Organization: Individual

Address: 47-573 Hui Kelu Street Kaneohe, Hawaii

Phone: 808-532-2526

E-mail: hlee@uhahealth.com
Submitted on: 2/3/2010

Comments:

Community Health Centers are the life line in these times when the uninsured population is raising due to the economy. Not just the uninsured is served, but also citizens who are just in need of primary care providers in thier neighborhood.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 7:19 PM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

delder@hamakua-health.org

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: DONALD R ELDER MD

Organization: Individual

Address: PO Box 250 Kapa'au, HI

Phone: 808-889-6236

E-mail: delder@hamakua-health.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

As a primary care physician listening to the debates on health care, I remain astounded at the lack of mention of the Community Health Centers already shouldering the bulk of uninsured care. Reducing funding for these seems unconscionable and frankly clueless.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 2:24 PM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

lcmtomasa@yahoo.com

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: CLAUDINE M TOMASA, RN

Organization: Individual

Address: 1268 Mokapu Blvd Kailua,, Hawaii

Phone: 8087835396

E-mail: <u>lcmtomasa@yahoo.com</u> Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

- SENATE BILL 2490 clearly directs the Administration and DOH to release ALL of the 2007 legislature approved COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (CHC) funds in order for the CHCs to continue operating through year 2010 / 2011.
- With the poor economy and more working class people loosing their jobs, being laid off, and/or loosing their health insurance, MORE families may seek health care at the closest Community Health Clinics.
- The Waimanalo Health Center has seen 11% more uninsured patients this past year which, warrants immediate release of ALL the special funds.
- Community Health Centers help keep people from using expensive emergency room services by proving preventive and primary medical, dental, and psychiatric services for all people (insured and uninsured).

Please PASS AND FORWARD SB2490. MAHALO.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Wednesday, February 03, 2010 9:19 AM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc: Subject: kumemoto@hawaii.edu Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Karen Umemoto Organization: Individual

Address: Phone:

E-mail: kumemoto@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/3/2010

Comments:

Please pass this bill as the health needs of low income and rural communities are only growing. Community health centers fill a vital need. As one who has witnessed the important contributions of these centers, I wholeheartedly support the funding of their activities to the fullest extent possible.

Respectfully, Karen Umemoto

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Tuesday, February 02, 2010 4:17 PM

To: Cc: HTHTestimony biuli@hawaii.rr.com

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Barbara A. Iuli

Organization: Individual

Address: 95-310 Waianuhea Place Mililani, HI 96789

Phone: 808-623-5370

E-mail: <u>biuli@hawaii.rr.com</u>
Submitted on: 2/2/2010

Comments:

I urge support of Senate Bill 2490 and that the appropriated monies be released to the CHC's asap to provide health care to those individuals who are in desparate need of medical care and usually have no other avenue except the community health care centers. Most people know that the sooner a medical problem is detected and treated you not only save lives but thousands of dollars in treatment and suffering that could be avoided. The hospital emergency rooms are not the appropriate place for non emergency medical treatment that can be provided at CHCs. It troubles me that a country as rich as the United States of America who provides monetary aid to so many other countries and their citizens that we cannot provide health care in our own country for our citizens who do not have the means to pay for it. Like it or not we are our " brother's keeper." Mahalo, B. Iuli

Sent:

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Tuesday, February 02, 2010 9:28 AM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

adrianna@waikikihc.org

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Adrianna O'Donnell Organization: Waikiki Health Center

Address: 277 Ohua Avenue Honolulu, HI 96815

Phone: 808.791.9331

E-mail: adrianna@waikikihc.org

Submitted on: 2/2/2010

Comments:

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 3:28 PM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

LOCALGAL50@YAHOO.COM

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: FRANCOISE MUELLER

Organization: Waimanalo Health Center Address: 44-113 PUUOHALAI PLACE KANEOHE HI

Phone: 808-728-7607

E-mail: LOCALGAL50@YAHOO.COM

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

I Francoise Mueller am an eligibility worker here at the Waimanalo Health Center and I strongly support this bill which directs the State Administration via the Department of Health to release moneys from the previously established Community Health Centers (CHCs) Special Fund to be used by Hawaii CHCs for its intended purpose. Although the original purpose of the CHC Special Fund was to provide additional moneys to build CHC capacity, however, last year the CHC Fund was used to supplant general funds previously budgeted to care for the uninsured and preserve access to emergency room services in Waianae and primary care services in Hana.

More than ever, CHCs are needed because of our poor economy, growth in the uninsured, reductions in public services, provider shortages, etc. We at WHC have seen 11% more uninsured patients this past year. In spite of most of our state contracts being cut by 50% and our running out of State funds to cover the cost of caring for the uninsured in January 2010, we will continue to serve our patients and anyone who needs medical, dental, mental health services. Because we have implemented cost-saving measures, improved efficiencies in our processes, and sought and received special purpose grants, we can do this only for a short time. However, to keep our doors open and continue our mission of service to our community, we need access to and full use of this 2007 Legislature-Approved CHC Special Fund.

It is vital that we continue to provide excellent health care to people who are uninsured. We help keep people from using expensive emergency room services by providing preventive and primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care. People who are uninsured cannot afford to purchase private insurance and do not qualify for QUEST Medicaid. They cannot afford to pay for the full cost of their health care so we rely on this funding from the State.

WHC, which serves a Medically Underserved Population in a Health Professions Shortage Area, is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system providing quality preventive and primary health and social services to our Ko'olaupoko communities targeting Waimanalo's 10,000 residents. We served nearly 4,000 people in over 18,000 visits this past year; 33% of our patients have no health insurance. Another 43% have OUEST.

I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that our providers give to our patients.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given our CHCs, our patients, and our communities. We urge your support for SB2490, which allows the CHCs to use the Special Fund for health care for the uninsured and other intended purposes. Mahalo and Aloha!

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 3:39 PM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

nkaunamano@waimanalohc.org

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Norma Kaunamano

Organization: Waimanalo Health Center

Address: 41-1347 Kalanianaole Hwy Waimanalo, HI 96795

Phone: (808) 259-7948

E-mail: nkaunamano@waimanalohc.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Date: February 4, 2010

To:

Senate Committee on Health
The Hon. David Ige, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490 Relating to Community Health Centers

Please support Senate Bill 2490 which appropriates moneys from the community health centers special fund to be used by community health centers in Hawai`i.

As an employee of the Waimānalo Health Center I am proud of the services that we provide to the community and all too familiar with the increased struggle in providing these services during these harsh economic times. I strongly support this measure which would ensure that the cigarette tax funds identified for the use of community health centers are fully expended for this purpose.

Community health centers across the State of Hawai`i provide an important safety net for the underserved populations including the homeless, the medically uninsured, Native Hawaiians, and immigrants. Over the past several months community health centers, such as the Waimānalo Health Center, have experienced a surge in the uninsured population. Over 50% of the new patients the Waimānalo Health Center serves are uninsured.

Although there has been an increased need for these vital medical services, organizations such as ours have also experienced nearly 50% cuts to most of our state-level funding. While state funding for mental health and dental health services have been reduced and more residents throughout Hawai`i are experiencing salary cuts and layoffs, many find themselves at our doors. And, despite the financial struggle, we continue to humbly serve them. At the Waimānalo Health Center we've implemented cost-saving measures and have focused our efforts on securing private funding. But, the need is too great for us to sustain much longer.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 3:40 PM

To: HTHTestimony

Cc: Ikassebeer@waimanalohc.org

Subject: Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Louana Kassebeer

Organization: Waimanalo Health Center

Address: 41-1347 Kalanianaole Hwy Waimanalo, HI 96795

Phone: (808) 259-7948

E-mail: lkassebeer@waimanalohc.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Date: February 4, 2010

To: Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. David Ige, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2490 Relating to Community Health Centers

Please support Senate Bill 2490 which appropriates moneys from the community health centers special fund to be used by community health centers in Hawai`i.

As an employee of the Waimānalo Health Center I am proud of the services that we provide to the community and all too familiar with the increased struggle in providing these services during these harsh economic times. I strongly support this measure which would ensure that the cigarette tax funds identified for the use of community health centers are fully expended for this purpose.

Community health centers across the State of Hawai`i provide an important safety net for the underserved populations including the homeless, the medically uninsured, Native Hawaiians, and immigrants. Over the past several months community health centers, such as the Waimānalo Health Center, have experienced a surge in the uninsured population. Over 50% of the new patients the Waimānalo Health Center serves are uninsured.

Although there has been an increased need for these vital medical services, organizations such as ours have also experienced nearly 50% cuts to most of our state-level funding. While state funding for mental health and dental health services have been reduced and more residents throughout Hawai`i are experiencing salary cuts and layoffs, many find themselves at our doors. And, despite the financial struggle, we continue to humbly serve them. At the Waimānalo Health Center we've implemented cost-saving measures and have focused our efforts on securing private funding. But, the need is too great for us to sustain much longer.

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 10:01 AM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

csawai@waimanalohc.org

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Cindy Sawai

Organization: Waimanalo Health Center

Address: 41-1347 Kalaniana ole Hwy Waimanalo, HI 96795

Phone: (808) 259~7948

E-mail: csawai@waimanalohc.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Date: February 4, 2010

To:

Senate Committee on Health
The Hon. David Ige, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 1:06 PM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

vtomooka@waimanalohc.org

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Veronica Tomooka

Organization: Waimanalo Health Center

Address: 41-1347 Kalaniana`ole Hwy Waimanalo, Hawai`i 96795

Phone: (808) 259-7948

E-mail: vtomooka@waimanalohc.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Date: February 4, 2010

To:

Senate Committee on Health
The Hon. David Ige. Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate 2:11 2490 Relating to Community Health Centers

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 1:07 PM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

rrhodes@waimanalohc.org

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Robert Rhodes

Organization: Waimanalo Health Center

Address: 41-1347 Kalaniana ole Hwy Waimanalo, Hawai i 96795

Phone: (808) 259-7948

E-mail: rrhodes@waimanalohc.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Date: February 4, 2010

To:

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The Hon. David Ige, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 1:07 PM

To: HTHTestimony

Cc: ktominaga@waimanalohc.org

Subject: Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Karen Tominaga

Organization: Waimanalo Health Center

Address: 41-1347 Kalaniana ole Hwy Waimanalo, Hawai i 96795

Phone: (808) 259-7948

E-mail: ktominaga@waimanalohc.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Date: February 4, 2010

To: Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. David Ige, Chair

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 1:08 PM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

dmadriaga@waimanalohc.org

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Donna Madriaga

Organization: Waimanalo Health Center

Address: 41-1347 Kalaniana`ole Hwy Waimanalo, Hawai`i 96795

Phone: (808) 259-7948

E-mail: dmadriaga@waimanalohc.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Date: February 4, 2010

To:

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The Hon. David Ige, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 1:09 PM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

garakawa@waimanalohc.org

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Gerrie Arakawa

Organization: Waimanalo Health Center

Address: 41-1347 Kalaniana`ole Hwy Waimanalo, Hawai`i 96795

Phone: (808) 259-7948

E-mail: garakawa@waimanalohc.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Date: February 4, 2010

To:

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 1:10 PM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

cdeleon@waimanalohc.org

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

~ - . - - -

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Cherry de Leon

Organization: Waimanalo Health Center

Address: 41-1347 Kalaniana ole Hwy Waimanalo, Hawai i 96795

Phone: (808) 259-7948

E-mail: cdeleon@waimanalohc.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Date: February 4, 2010

To:

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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Thursday, February 04, 2010 11:15 AM

To:

HTHTestimony

Cc:

madams@bayclinic.org

Subject:

Testimony for SB2490 on 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/5/2010 2:55:00 PM SB2490

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Monica Adams Organization: Bay Clinic, Inc.

Address: 224 Haili Street Hilo, HI 96720

Phone: 808-961-4080

E-mail: madams@bayclinic.org

Submitted on: 2/4/2010

Comments:

Please consider these 20 individuals who represent Community Health Centers and their patients' living on Hawaii Island and their testimony of support of SB 2490.