

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

February 24, 2012

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2676, H.D.1 - RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Friday, February 24, 2012; 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services to restore staff positions on Maui, Lanai, and Molokai that were eliminated during the 2010-2011 fiscal year; make an appropriation for 6 full-time Medicaid eligibility workers and physician positions to meet the needs of Medicaid patients; and make an appropriation for physician positions that are essential and critical in serving the needs of Medicaid patients.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill but respectfully opposes the bill. We ask that the Legislature support the Department's priorities as requested in the Executive Supplemental budget submitted by Governor Abercrombie.

A further concern is Part III of the bill that would appropriate funds to the DHS to establish physician positions within the Department to provide direct services to the Medicaid population. The Department is a healthcare purchaser and payer, but not a

provider of direct patient services.

The Department would have to purchase liability insurance for the physicians, find and set up an office or offices where patients would be seen and examined, hire ancillary medical staff (nursing staff and scheduling staff for office visits and scheduling of operating room usage), and purchase medical equipment, etc. It is not economically feasible for physician positions providing direct care to be established within the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Council Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair
Joseph Pontanilla

Council Members
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
G. Riki Hokama
Michael P. Victorino
Mike White



Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

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February 23, 2012

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro:

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2676 HD 1 relating to Human Services
(Public Hearing: February 24, 2012 at 3:30 pm in Conference Room 308)**

As the Lana'i member on the Maui County Council, I would like to offer testimony in support of HB 2676 HD 1. This measure appropriates funds for the Department of Human Services to restore staff positions on Maui, Lanai, and Molokai that were eliminated during the 2010-2011 fiscal year; makes an appropriation for six full-time Medicaid eligibility workers; makes an appropriation for physician positions that are essential and critical in serving the needs of Medicaid patients.

I support the proposed measure, because it would provide for a needed public health nurse position on Lana'i. This position has been vacant due to lack of funding. In our small island community, this health care professional provides an important service to our residents, especially the elderly and school-age children.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Riki Hokama", is written over a horizontal line.

Riki Hokama, Councilmember- Lana'i

cc: Council Chair Danny Mateo

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Friday, February 24, 2012 9:42 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: framodda@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2676 on 2/24/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2676

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ramoda Anand
Organization: The Life of a Physically Challenged Adult...
E-mail: framodda@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/24/2012

Comments:

I support this bill because I think it was crazy in the first place that you cut this job.