



WRITTEN ONLY

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 117
RELATING TO HEALTH**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Hearing Date: February 6, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure requests \$6,000,000 for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 to provide
2 direct health care for the uninsured and underinsured which takes into consideration the need
3 in all counties.

4 **Department Testimony:** The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to provide quality, cost-
5 effective health care for Hawaii residents who are uninsured, newly uninsured, or
6 underinsured.

7 The intent of Section 2 is to restore the nearly \$6,000,000 in State funds that was reduced by
8 the Director of Health due to severe budgetary reductions in fiscal year 2010. As a result of the
9 reductions, the funding for contracts with thirteen (13) FQHCs for the provision of primary care
10 services (medical, behavioral, dental treatment) and contracts with Hana Health
11 (urgent/primary care services) and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (emergency
12 room services) were switched to the community health centers special fund. If the \$6,000,000
13 is restored to its original intended purpose which is to fund the aforementioned contracted

1 services, the community health centers special fund will be used to provide capacity and
2 infrastructure expansion for the FQHCs.

3 The Department appreciates the intent of Section 2, however we defer to the priorities in the
4 Governor's Executive Budget request.

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

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HO'OLA LĀHUI HAWAI'I
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February 4, 2015

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 117 with an amendment
Relating to Health

Tuesday, February 6, 2015, 1:15 P.M., Room 414

Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii the only Federally Qualified Health Center and Native Hawaiian Health Care System on Kauai is strongly **SUPPORTING** this bill to provide additional funding to support visits at community health centers for uninsured/underinsured patients.

It is important to note that there is great emphasis in Section 1 of this bill discussing the importance of community health centers and defining them. Section 2 seems to be more general omitting that the payments are for community health centers. We suggest the following insertion into Section 2 as a proposed amendment.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$6,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the direct health care for the uninsured and underinsured, which may include primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care; provided that distribution of funds may be on a "per visit" basis and may include an additional per member per month quality incentive payment that takes into consideration need in all counties for care **delivered by Community Health Centers.**

Respectfully Requested,

David Peters
Chief Executive Officer



February 5, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Health Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Senator Josh Green, Chair Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

FROM: Dr. Vija Sehgal, Pediatrician and Chief Quality Office / Associate Medical Officer
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center / 697-3457 or wcchc@wcchc.com

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 117: RELATING TO HEALTH**

In 2013, the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) provided services to 32,905 individuals. Despite a proactive approach in supporting uninsured patients by assisting them in completing the QUEST application process, there has remained a constant uninsured population of at least 10% annually over the past five years.

Besides being an economically distressed community, the Waianae Coast has a higher rate of residents who have, or are at-risk for, serious health conditions. According to the 2012 Department of Health Primary Care Needs Assessment Databook, which ranks 28 service areas throughout the state, the Waianae Coast ranks highest on the island of Oahu for households receiving financial aid and food stamps; those at less than 100% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; unemployment rate; infant mortality, and teen births.

During the past 43 years, WCCHC has evolved a unique model of health care delivery that addresses not only an individual's health care needs, but that of the family and the community through a primary health care home model. WCCHC is a safety net for uninsured, medically underserved patients.

Uninsured funding is extremely important to the Waianae community and for those who are uninsured.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo.



February 5, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Health Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Senator Josh Green, Chair Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

FROM: Dr. Vija Sehgal, Pediatrician and Chief Quality Office / Associate Medical Officer
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Please support this bill.

Mahalo.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

SB 117, Relating to Health

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senate Committee on Health

Hearing—February 6, 2015 at 1:15 PM

Dear Chairwoman Baker, Chairman Green and Members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Health:

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems. I would like to take this opportunity to provide my support for SB 117.

This legislation would authorize \$12 million in funding over two years for organizations in the state to provide direct primary health care for the un- or underinsured. In 2012, QHS provided approximately \$91 million in uncompensated and charity care. Many in our community are medically underserved, and investments such as the one in SB 117 will help our residents get access to needed preventive and primary care.

I would ask for your support on this measure. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 117 – RELATING TO HEALTH

TO: **Committee on Health**
 Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

DATE: **February 6, 2015, Friday**

TIME: **1:15 p.m.**

LOCALE: **Conference Room 414 – State Capitol**

Aloha kakou:

My name is R. Kawahine Kamakea-Ohelo and I am in support of SB 117 relating to health and Community Health Centers (CHC). I currently attend the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work in the Master's program at UH Manoa. There has been a lot of attention to the homelessness issue, especially here on the island of Oahu. With that in mind homeless individuals and families access the needed health care services in the communities they are in. Even with the new federal mandate that everyone shall be insured, the reality is there will still be many that will fall through the cracks in the system that will be uninsured. CHC's are the entities the homeless will go to and obtain their acute health care services.

As you are well aware the mission of the CHC's is to provide primary care services to the underserved, underinsured, and uninsured. They provide services to all persons regardless of their ability to pay. Under the governance of a community board, charges for services are set on a sliding fee scale and payment is made according to the family's income and size.

Historically, the CHC's originally were to provide comprehensive health services to the medically underserved to reduce patient load at hospital emergency rooms. However, without the needed funding, Hawai'i will continue to see an increase utilization of hospital emergency rooms. The cost of health care will continue to rise without the needed support and services at the community-base level.

Your financial support will allow for the continuation of the 14 CHC's to provide primary health care to the indigent in the state of Hawai'i.

Respectfully yours,

R. Kawahine Kamakea-Ohelo