

LATE

February 7, 2017

Senator Rosalyn Baker Chair Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

SB1308: Relating to Wahiawa General Hospital

LETTER IN SUPPORT

Dear Senator Baker and Committee Members:

I am writing to express the support of Hawaii Emergency Physicians Associated for SB1308. Our physicians have been providing emergency care at Wahiawa for more than 40 years and are proud of our place in the Wahiawa community. The services that our team in the emergency department and our colleagues throughout the hospital provide are essential to Central Oahu, the North Shore, and the health care system in Hawaii.

It cannot be overstated how important the location of Wahiawa General Hospital is in terms of providing emergency care. Over the decades, our emergency department has saved many lives that might have otherwise been lost if transport had been continued to other facilities. I, myself, have delivered babies that otherwise would have been born with much greater risk in an ambulance. I have removed a foreign body from an airway of a child who would have suffocated had our emergency department not been available in Central Oahu.

As important is the inpatient capacity that Wahiawa General Hospital provides to the area and to the health care system as a whole in Hawaii. The WGH ED averages 65 visits daily. The inpatient census average more than 20 patients, including ICU patients. In 2014, the American College of Emergency Physicians reviewed Hawaii's emergency care environment. Of particular note were the relatively low number of emergency departments, low numbers of staffed inpatient beds, high inpatient occupancy rate, the lowest number of ICU beds per capita, and second lowest bed surge capacity. These challenges led to F grades for access to care and disaster preparedness. We cannot afford to lose the facilities we currently have.

We remain committed to Wahiawa General Hospital and the Wahiawa community and ask that the legislature commit to Wahiawa as well. Provide funding so that Wahiawa General Hospital may transition to a sustainable business model for the good of all Hawaii. Support SB1308.

Sincerely,

Craig Thomas, MD, FACEP President, Hawaii Emergency Physicians Associated The Twenty-Ninth Legislature Regular Session of 2017

LATE

THE SENATE

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair State Capitol, Conference Room 229 Wednesday, February 8, 2017; 9:00 a.m.

# STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 1308 RELATING TO WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL

The ILWU Local 142 strongly supports S.B. 1308, which appropriates funds to support basic operations, staff salaries and benefits, and continued hospitalist physician services at Wahiawa General Hospital (WGH) through the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriation of funds to finance capital improvement projects for WGH. Funds shall also be appropriate for the Department of Health to perform a financial and performance audit of WGH.

The ILWU represents 60 full- and part-time employees who work at Wahiawa General Hospital performing various clerical functions in the business office, admissions, medical records, storeroom, and as unit clerks. In recent years, the hospital has cut back on its clerical staff due to financial challenges.

Wahiawa General Hospital has struggled for many years. Undercapitalized, the hospital has not been able to undertake the major renovations and upgrades that would help to make it more competitive.

Nevertheless, Wahiawa General Hospital serves a vital role in the community. It is the only hospital for most of Central Oahu. The nearest hospitals are Queen's Medical Center West and Pali Momi Medical Center to the south and west and Kahuku Hospital to the north. Wahiawa General Hospital provides nearby communities with acute inpatient care, emergency room services, and long-term care. Wahiawa General is also the largest private employer in Central Oahu.

Many of our members and retired members live and work in the area served by Wahiawa General Hospital. When they need emergency care, they are fortunate to have a fully staffed and recently modernized emergency room nearby. When their elderly parents need long-term care, they are relieved that a skilled nursing facility is close by to allow them to visit frequently. When they or their children need to be hospitalized for surgery or other medical issues, they are grateful to have acute care provided near their homes.

Hospitals like Wahiawa General are costly to operate but are vitally needed by the populations they serve. As a nonprofit corporation, Wahiawa General Hospital exists to serve the community's health care needs. If Wahiawa General closes, and the threat is real, thousands of Hawaii residents in Central Oahu will be left with minimal health care, jeopardizing the lives of cardiac patients and diminishing the well-being of a huge swath of the community.

The funding provided last year was a stop-gap measure, and the hospital is in need of another infusion of funds to allow Wahiawa General Hospital to continue operations. The ILWU strongly urges passage of S.B. 1308 for the sake of the residents in Central Oahu who need the services that Wahiawa General provides. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this measure.



Maureen Meehan-Golonka, RN President

> Jeffrey Bott Director of Field Services

949 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 107 Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

> Tel: (808) 531-1628 Fax: (808) 524-2760

February 7, 2017

Hon. Committee Chair Representative Della Au Belatti Hon. Committee Members on Health State Capitol 415 South Beretania Honolulu, HI, 96813 LATE

Dear Hon. Committee Chair Belatti and Hon. Committee Members,

On behalf of the registered nurses represented by the Hawaii Nurses' Association, including the 57 RNs employed at Wahiawa General Hospital, I write in support of S.B. 1308. S.B. 1308 will provide critically needed funding for Wahiawa General Hospital to continue to operate. Wahiawa General Hospital provides vital healthcare services to Wahiawa and surrounding communities. The Hospital serves a largely low-income and elderly population, with a large amount of its revenues coming from treating Medicare and Medicaid patients. The revenue provided by these services does not support the actual cost of providing treatment, which necessitates additional funding for continued operation of the Hospital.

As we understand, Wahiawa General Hospital will close within six months if it does not receive immediate financial assistance from the State. The closure of the Hospital would be a tragic loss for the entire Wahiawa area and North Shore community. The loss of emergency medical services could impact the safety of residents of a geographical area that encompasses a large portion of the island of Oahu. If Wahiawa were to close, the nearest emergency room would be some 13 miles away. For someone living in Waialua, Haleiwa, or Kahuku, the distance would be approximately 20 miles instead of approximately 8 miles to Wahiawa General. Further, the closing would not only severely limit these communities access to healthcare, but also eliminates the jobs of those who work at the Hospital. Wahiawa General Hospital is the largest employer in Central Oahu, providing more than 600 jobs, including those of some of Hawaii's finest nursing professionals. Many of these nurses have been in the service of Wahiawa for many years. We are very proud of the quality service these nurses provide Wahiawa patients on a daily basis. Most live in the Wahiawa area and therefore contribute to the local economy. The loss of access to local healthcare and the economic effect thereof would be a two pronged catastrophic blow to all the Central and North Shore affected communities. The last thing Hawaii needs is unemployment for numerous skilled professionals and less access to healthcare for its rural and shoreline residents. We strongly urge your support for this imperative measure. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maureen Meehan-Golonka

President, Hawai'i Nurses' Association



#### HAWAII LABORERS-EMPLOYERS COOPERATION AND EDUCATION TRUST

650 Iwilei Road, Suite 285 · Honolulu, HI 96817 · Phone: 808-845-3238 · Fax: 808-845-8300

#### TESTIMONY OF HAWAII LECET CLYDE T. HAYASHI – DIRECTOR

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

TIME:

9:00 a.m.

PLACE:

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

#### TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1308, RELATING TO WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR, CLARENCE NISHIHARA, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH:

My name is Clyde T. Hayashi, and I am the Director of Hawaii LECET. Hawaii LECET is a labor-management partnership between the Hawaii Laborers Union, Local 368, and its unionized contractors.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in <u>STRONG SUPPORT</u> of Senate Bill No. 1308, which appropriates funds to support basic operations, staff salaries and benefits, and continued hospitalist physician services at Wahiawa General Hospital.

As the only medical facility that provides emergency medical services in the areas of Mililani to Wahiawa, Waialua, Sunset and Kahuku, the continued operation of Wahiawa General Hospital and its proximity to these communities oftentimes is the critical factor in determining whether a person in a life threatening accident or sickness will survive. For this reason, Hawaii LECET strongly supports the request for funding to keep Wahiawa General Hospital operational for the next two years, In addition, Hawaii LECET supports the authorization for issuance of general obligation bonds and funds for capital improvement projects and the conduction of a performance audit to assist Wahiawa General Hospital in its intent to become operationally self-sustaining.

The continued operation of Wahiawa General Hospital will also benefit the community by continuing to provide 518 good paying jobs, many of which are positions held by community residents. Closure of Wahiawa General Hospital would not only affect these individuals and their families, but also affect the larger community as residents will have less income to purchase goods and services, resulting in a decrease in sales and revenue for community and area businesses.

While we strongly support the critical funding for Wahiawa General Hospital, we have strong concerns regarding the bill calling for the discontinuing of acute care services. We are not clear as to which acute care services will be eliminated. Presently, if a motor vehicle accident victim were brought to WGH's emergency room and if surgery was necessary, there would be an operating room available for that victim. If acute care services are eliminated, there will be no operating room or other services for those victims and other patients.

For all of these reasons, Hawaii LECET <u>STRONGLY SUPPORTS</u> Senate Bill No. 1308, and respectfully requests your favorable consideration.

## Hawaiʻi Construction Alliance



P.O. Box 179441 Honolulu, HI 96817 (808) 348-8885

February 8, 2017

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
and members
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Support for SB1308, Relating to Wahiawa General Hospital

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members:

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Union, Local 630; International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 1; and the Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 3. Together, the member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the basic crafts of Hawai'i's construction industry, of whom many live in the Central Oahu and North Shore areas serviced by Wahiawa General Hospital.

We **support SB1308**, which would appropriate funds to support basic operations, staff salaries and benefits, and continued hospitalist physician services at Wahiawa General Hospital, authorize issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for financing capital improvement projects for Wahiawa General Hospital, and appropriate funds to the Department of Health to perform a financial and performance audit of Wahiawa General Hospital.

We appreciate the action the legislature took last session to provide necessary funding to Wahiawa General Hospital. As Wahiawa General Hospital is the only facility providing emergency medical services for much of Central Oahu and the North Shore, we believe it is critical that additional bridge funding be provided to enable the hospital to transition to a sustainable business model and to continue its tradition of providing high-quality care to the area's many residents.

In closing, we request your committee's favorable action on SB1308.

Mahalo,

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam Executive Director

Hawai'i Construction Alliance

execdir@hawaiiconstructionalliance.org





302 California Ave., Ste 106, Wahiawa HI, 96786 www.wahiawahealth.org

# THE SENATE THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE:

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

TIME:

9:00 a.m.

PLACE:

Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

# SB 1308 RELATING TO WAHIAW GENERAL HOSPITAL

Good morning Chairs Baker and Nishihara and members of the committee:

I am Bev Harbin and I am the Executive Director for Wahiawa Health, a community health center. Thank you for inviting The Wahiawa Center for Community Health (Wahiawa Health) to participate in this discussion regarding the Wahiawa General Hospital and SB1308.

Wahiawa Health is a nonprofit corporation with a local Board of Directors. It operates a community health center at 302 California Avenue, Wahiawa. Wahiawa Health currently serves about 9,000 people from Wahiawa, Mililani, Waialua, and Kunia. Our catchment area incorporates 120,000 lives of which 46,000 live below the 200% federal median income line. Wahiawa Health commenced medical operations on August 1, 2016 with the purchase of two retiring physicians' offices and practices. Wahiawa Health has worked diligently with partners, including Wahiawa General Hospital, to: conduct thorough needs assessments of health disparities and socioeconomic barriers to the area's residents; obtain US Department of Agriculture (USDA) designation as a rural community, and; have the community designated by the US Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) as a Medically Underserved Population. This work has laid the foundation for Wahiawa Health to apply for status as a Federally Qualified Health Center. Wahiawa Health's services consist of primary care (including

pediatrics, adults and seniors, including OB/GYN), behavioral health, oral health care, care coordination, and on-site pharmacy. At this time, many of the non-core, HRSA required services are outsourced to other organizations, including Wahiawa General Hospital (diagnostic laboratory, diagnostic radiology, occupational and physical therapy and speech pathology). Over time, and with your consistent support, Wahiawa Health will build capacity and expertise in a full range of in-clinic primary care services. Wahiawa Health turns no one away due to an inability to pay for our services. Wahiawa Health considers Wahiawa General Hospital a very important part of our health delivery collaboration.

We have been asked to comment on Senate Bill 1308 and to address an assertion in the bill that, "The Wahiawa Center for Community Health can assist patients who might lose services by the downsize of Wahiawa General Hospital. Although the hospital will downsize, services will be available for the community of Wahiawa."

This statement is true. Yet it belies a more complex situation. Further, assisting is not always the same as "treating" and "availability" is a relative term.

The health care delivery system of Central Oahu is complex and has many participants. Already, Wahiawa Health is an integral part of that delivery system. Once at full capacity and with its full set of services in place, Wahiawa Health will provide significant medical, behavioral and social services for the community of Wahiawa in collaboration with other health care service organizations; hopefully including Wahiawa General Hospital.

As a primary care community clinic, our physicians provide follow up care for those recently discharged from an acute care setting (hospital). Our providers assist residents manage chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, and heart disease, thereby reducing the number of acute care cases that emerge in our community. Our providers provide preventative care and patient education, again thereby, reducing acute care events, over time. Wahiawa Health will not be providing acute (tertiary) care for patients. Rather, we work with all the area hospitals to admit our patients needing acute care; follow our patients while in an acute care setting; receive our patients for follow up care upon discharge; and assist them manage whatever illness or injury from which they are recovering. In the event that Wahiawa General Hospital ceases to intake

acute care cases, Wahiawa Health will work with other area hospitals for admitting our patients.

Additionally, while Wahiawa Health will provide minor emergency services (cuts, scrapes, bruises, stings) in a primary care setting, it is imperative that the community of Wahiawa have full emergency services available.

Specialty medical care (as opposed to primary medical care) is especially expensive and difficult to access by under-insured people. We worry that specialists that currently maintain offices or serve at Wahiawa General Hospital will no longer provide secondary care in Wahiawa. This loss of access could impact the health of the community over time. Wahiawa Health will have a limited ability to expand its scope of services into most secondary care specialties.

We understand that times change and that Wahiawa General Hospital is being asked to change too. As a historically integral part of our health care delivery system, its benefits are woven tightly into the fabric of our community. Great care is required as we propose to change that system. Without appropriate study and thoughtful adjustments to Wahiawa General Hospital's services, it is possible that unintended consequences could set back the health outlook of our community.

We urge your thoughtful support of Wahiawa General Hospital as it changes and your continuing support for Wahiawa Health as it grows to fill the gaps.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bev Harbin

Executive Director

BTH:jwe

### LATE

# Testimony of Christopher Delaunay Pacific Resource Partnership

## State of Hawaii SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

SB 1308- Wahiawa General Hospital

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9:00 A.M. State Capitol – Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

PRP supports SB 1308, Relating to Wahiawa General Hospital, which would appropriate funds to support basic operations, staff salaries and benefits, and continued hospitalist physician services at Wahiawa General Hospital (WGH). This measure also authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for financing capital improvement projects for Wahiawa general hospital.

WGH is the largest private employer in Wahiawa employing approximately 600 employees with approximately 90% of its employees living within Wahiawa, Kahuku, Haleiwa, Waialua, Wahiawa, Mililani, and West Oahu. The survival of the hospital is crucial not only to the town itself and its residents economically, but necessary in terms of the public health, safety and welfare to the residents and visitors.

The next closest emergency services facility and hospital is approximately 13-14 miles away from WGH and thus could affect over 60,000 residents and visitors to the area. The inability to access a nearby hospital could be an issue of life and death for emergency patients.

Thank you for allowing us to share our views with you and we respectfully ask for your support in keeping WGH up and running.



#### (Continued From Page 1)

#### About PRP

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a not-for-profit organization that represents the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state, and more than 240 of Hawaii's top contractors. Through this unique partnership, PRP has become an influential voice for responsible construction and an advocate for creating a stronger, more sustainable Hawaii in a way that promotes a vibrant economy, creates jobs and enhances the quality of life for all residents.



#### baker4 - Mary Kate

From:

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 6:43 PM

To:

**CPH Testimony** 

Cc:

rebecca.canon-fratis@wahiawageneral.org

Subject:

\*Submitted testimony for SB1308 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

LATE

#### SB1308

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Canon-Fratis	Wahiawa Nursing and Rehabilitation Center/WGH LTC	Support	No

#### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Testimony to the House Committee on Health Wednesday, February 7, 2017
State Capitol, Conf. Room 229

LATE

RE: TO WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee:

My name is Chase Cappo and I am a resident of Mililani Tech Park at 95-270 Waikalani Dr. Unit J103, Mililani, HI, 96789. I am submitting written testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1308, which appropriates funds to support basic operations, staff salaries and benefits, and continued hospitalist physician services at Wahiawa General Hospital.

First, I would like to thank each and every legislator and the State of Hawaii for saving Wahiawa General Hospital last year. Without the quick response of the legislature, Wahiawa General Hospital may not be in operation today. Thank you for listening to new members of this community. Thank you for keeping the doors of Wahiawa General Hospital open to the public, military personnel, and in specific regard to my family, transitioning Service Members & soon-to-be Veterans.

Funding is requested for the next two years as bridge funding to enable the hospital to transition to a sustainable business model. Additionally, this will keep alive opportunities of services and jobs at Koa Ridge. Please consider keeping parts of acute care services available as it will affect patient care outcomes.

Wahiawa General Hospital is an essential medical facility in Central and North Shore Oahu. It is the only facility that provides emergency medical services in a vast geographical area extending from Mililani to Wahiawa, Waialua, Sunset, and Kahuku. This area encompasses nearly one-third of the entire Island of Oahu. When speaking to my wife, Samantha, about what I was doing down here this morning, she was shocked and worried we might have to fight traffic down H2 in the case of an emergency.

Wahiawa General Hospital is again seeking financial support as the closure would have enormous ramifications to the health, welfare, and safety of these communities. If Wahiawa General Hospital were to close, the nearest emergency room for a person situated in Wahiawa would be either Pali Momi near Pearlridge Center, or Queen's West – both of which are approximately 13 miles away.

For a person living in Waialua or Sunset or Kahuku, the distance would be 20 miles instead of the 8 miles it takes to go to Wahiawa General Hospital. In a case of a critical accident or sickness, the extra miles it takes to get a person to an emergency room might be the difference between life and death.

Furthermore, Wahiawa General Hospital is one of the largest employers in Central Oahu, providing 518 jobs with approximately 90% of its workers residing in the surrounding areas. Most of the employees are members of the ILWU, UPW, and HNA unions. These are very good-paying, professional jobs. The closure of Wahiawa General Hospital would be devastating to entire families as heads of households will need to seek reemployment while keeping up payments for their mortgages, putting food on the table, and doing all they can to make life "normal" for their children and families.

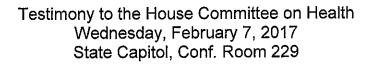
Finally, as the co-Founder of the new Hawaiian MASTER Council, which stands acronym for 'Military Aloha State Transition & Economic Retention' Council. I testify the failure to support Wahiawa General Hospital will have a strong negative impact on Veteran Retention and our mission as a Non-Profit. As we actively work to attract and help Service Members with their families transition as Veterans and integrate as resident into Hawaii's rich socioeconomic ecosystem, facilities like Waiawa General Hospital are crucial to easing the transition of young couples like Samantha and I, who are excited to make this part of the island our home.

It is vital that Wahiawa General Hospital remain operational. For these reasons, I SUPPORT this bill and respectfully urge you to pass it.

Chase B. Cappo U.S. Army Captain

Co-founder, MASTER C

(E) chasecappo@peakhawaii.com





#### RE: TO WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee:

My name is Pamela Cruz and I am a resident of Ewa Beach. I am submitting written testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1308, which appropriates funds to support basic operations, staff salaries and benefits, and continued hospitalist physician services at Wahiawa General Hospital.

First, I would like to thank each and every legislator and the State of Hawaii for saving Wahiawa General Hospital last year. Without the quick response of the legislature, Wahiawa General Hospital may not be in operation today. Thank you for listening to your community. Thank you for keeping the doors of Wahiawa General Hospital open.

Funding is requested for the next two years as bridge funding to enable the hospital to transition to a sustainable business model. Additionally, this will keep alive opportunities of services and jobs at Koa Ridge. Please consider keeping parts of acute care services available as it will affect patient care outcomes.

Wahiawa General Hospital is an essential medical facility in Central and North Shore Oahu. It is the only facility that provides emergency medical services in a vast geographical area extending from Mililani to Wahiawa, Waialua, Sunset, and Kahuku. This area encompasses nearly one-third of the entire Island of Oahu.

Wahiawa General Hospital is again seeking financial support as the closure would have enormous ramifications to the health, welfare, and safety of these communities. If Wahiawa General Hospital were to close, the nearest emergency room for a person situated in Wahiawa would be either Pali Momi near Pearlridge Center, or Queen's West – both of which are approximately 13 miles away.

For a person living in Waialua or Sunset or Kahuku, the distance would be 20 miles instead of the 8 miles it takes to go to Wahiawa General Hospital. In a case of a critical accident or sickness, the extra miles it takes to get a person to an emergency room might be the difference between life and death.

Furthermore, Wahiawa General Hospital is one of the largest employers

in Central Oahu, providing 518 jobs with approximately 90% of its workers residing in the surrounding areas. Most of the employees are members of the ILWU, UPW, and HNA unions. These are very good-paying, professional jobs. The closure of Wahiawa General Hospital would be devastating to entire families as heads of households will need to seek reemployment while keeping up payments for their mortgages, putting food on the table, and doing all they can to make life "normal" for their children and families.

It is vital that Wahiawa General Hospital remain operational. For these reasons, I SUPPORT this bill and respectfully urge you to pass it.

# Grace Sousa, MD FAAEM FACEM 6033 Marina Drive Ewa Beach, HI 96706 grace.sousa.md@gmail.com

LATE

Mobile: 808.824.0498 Home: 808-744-0488

Testimony to the House Committee on Health Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9AM State Capitol, Conf. Room 229

RE: TO WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee:

My name is Grace Sousa and I am a resident of 96706, Ewa Beach. I am submitting written testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1308, which appropriates funds to support basic operations, staff salaries and benefits, and continued hospitalist physician services at Wahiawa General Hospital.

First, I would like to thank each and every legislator and the State of Hawaii for saving Wahiawa General Hospital last year. Without the quick response of the legislature, Wahiawa General Hospital may not be in operation today. Thank you for listening to your community. Thank you for keeping the doors of Wahiawa General Hospital open.

Funding is requested for the next two years as bridge funding to enable the hospital to transition to a sustainable business model. Additionally, this will keep alive opportunities of services and jobs at Koa Ridge. Please consider keeping parts of acute care services available as it will affect patient care outcomes.

Wahiawa General Hospital is an essential medical facility in Central and North Shore Oahu. It is the only facility that provides emergency medical services in a vast geographical area extending from Mililani to Wahiawa, Waialua, Sunset, and Kahuku. This area encompasses nearly one-third of the entire Island of Oahu.

Wahiawa General Hospital is again seeking financial support as the closure would have enormous ramifications to the health, welfare, and safety of these communities. If Wahiawa General Hospital were to close, the nearest emergency room for a person situated in Wahiawa would be either Pali Momi near Pearlridge Center, or Queen's West – both of which are approximately 13 miles away.

For a person living in Waialua or Sunset or Kahuku, the distance would be 20 miles instead of the 8 miles it takes to go to Wahiawa General Hospital. In a case of a critical accident or sickness, the extra miles it takes to get a person to an emergency room might be the difference between life and death.

Furthermore, Wahiawa General Hospital is one of the largest employers in Central Oahu, providing 518 jobs with approximately 90% of its workers residing in the surrounding areas. Most of the employees are members of the ILWU, UPW, and HNA unions. These are very good-paying, professional jobs. The closure of Wahiawa General Hospital would be devastating to entire families as heads of households will need to seek reemployment while keeping up payments for their mortgages, putting food on the table, and doing all they can to make life "normal" for their children and families.

It is vital that Wahiawa General Hospital remain operational. For these reasons, I SUPPORT this bill and respectfully urge you to pass it.

#### baker4 - Mary Kate

From:

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 3:50 PM

To:

**CPH Testimony** 

Cc:

chino34120@hotmail.com

Subject:

Submitted testimony for SB1308 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM



#### SB1308

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Harvell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the bill

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

#### baker4 - Mary Kate

From:

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Sent:

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 2:14 PM

To:

**CPH Testimony** 

Cc: Subject: e.r.smith@mac.com Submitted testimony for SB1308 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM

Categories:

Late

SB1308

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Smith	Individual	Support	No No

Comments: I support this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Roz Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
And Members
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re:

SB 1308 -RELATING TO WAHIAWA GENERAL HOSPITAL

February 8, 2017 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 229

Good morning, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committee:

My name is Sharlene Akita. I am testifying in strong support of SB 1308, which appropriates funds to support basic operations, staff salaries and benefits, and continued hospitalist physician services at Wahiawa General Hospital.

One of my sisters lived in Whitmore Village and went to school in Wahiawa town. Many times, she went to the Wahiawa General Hospital emergency room for treatment. When she became very sick with severe pneumonia, she went to the Wahiawa General Hospital where she passed away. Just as my sister needed Wahiawa General Hospital medical services, so too do all the people who live in Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, and the surrounding areas, need Wahiawa General Hospital for their medical needs.

Please support and pass SB 1308 to keep Wahiawa General Hospital in service for all of our people.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Sharlene Akita