



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 1468, RELATING TO THE WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**LATE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 7, 2019

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 329

**TESTIFIER(S):** Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or  
Angela A. Tokuda, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate \$200,000 for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same for fiscal year 2020-2021 to the Department of Health to provide funding to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) for one full-time equivalent advanced practice registered nurse position and various infrastructure improvements, including wi-fi connectivity and the purchase and maintenance of small equipment, for the continued operation of WCCHC's school-based health center located at Nanakuli high and intermediate school.

While we appreciate the intent of this bill, as currently written the means for the State to expend the funds might violate article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii Constitution. That section provides, in part, that "[n]o grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." Chapter 42F, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), prescribes the standards for the grant, award or appropriation of state funds to a specified recipient. We do not know whether these standards have been met.

We recommend that, if WCCHC is eligible pursuant to the standards of chapter 42F, HRS, the Legislature could appropriate the funds as a grant to WCCHC to achieve the goals intended by this bill. This can be accomplished by making the following changes in section 2, lines 15-17:

There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 ~~[for the department of health to provide funding]~~ as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) advanced practice registered nurse position and various infrastructure improvements including wi-fi connectivity and the purchase and maintenance of small equipment, for the continued operation of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center's school-based health center located at Nanakuli high and intermediate school.

In addition, section 103F-101(a)(1), HRS, does not apply to “[c]ontracts to award grants of state funds appropriated by the legislature to a specific organization or individual”. With the addition of the chapter 42F, HRS, wording, section 2, on page 3, lines 3 to 5, should be deleted in order to conform with the above changes:

~~[The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of health through a contract awarded pursuant to chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the purposes of this Act.]~~

If the Committee decides to proceed with this bill, we respectfully ask the Committee to amend the funding provision to meet the requirements of article VII, section 4, of the Hawaii Constitution and delete the reference to chapter 103F, HRS.

**HB-1468**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:19:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann Mahi	Hawaii Dept of Education	Support	No

Comments:

As the Complex Area Superintendent of Nanakuli-Waianae, I strongly support HB 1468 request for funding for the School Based Health Center (SBHC) at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School (NHIS). We have been working collaboratively to address the health issues of our students and to provide them the opportunity to learn how to be responsible for their physical health needs through the services of the SBHC. This is being accomplished through the presence of WCCHC staff at the SBHC. There are still some infrastructure costs and additional staffing needed to fully address not only physical health but also the mental health and behavioral concerns that are being identified by school administration, counselors and in some cases the students themselves. I would like to recommend that the 1 FTE APRN be changed to 1FTE Licensed Clinical Psychologist to support the social emotional well-being of our students at NHIS. The Waianae High School and the Waianae Intermediate School SBHCs both have access to a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and have been able to address mental health issues that keep our students in school, in class, happy and learning. Please provide this much needed support for our community. Thank you very much.

Ann Mahi, Complex Area Superintendent with the support of Darin Piliialoha, Principal NHIS, Disa Hauge, Principal WHS, John Wataoka Principal WIS



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health  
Thursday, February 7, 2019, 2018; 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**RE: SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 1468, RELATING TO THE WAIANAE COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER.**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1468, RELATING TO THE WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate \$200,000 in general funds for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, and \$200,000 in general funds for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, for the Department of Health (DOH) to provide funding to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) advanced practice registered nurse position and various infrastructure improvements, including wi-fi connectivity and the purchase and maintenance of small equipment, for the continued operation of the WCCHC school-based health center located at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School;
- (2) Provide that the sums be expended by the DOH through a contract in accordance with Chapter 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (3) Take effect on July 1, 2019.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1468**  
**Thursday, February 7, 2019; 8:30 a.m.**  
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WCCHC has clearly demonstrated its leadership in serving the health needs of our most vulnerable populations. As such, the appropriation of funds to assist WCCHC most definitely will serve the public good.

By working with the Department of Education to establish school-based clinics at public schools situated near their facilities, WCCHC has proactively and creatively worked to improve the health care outcomes of not only the students of the Leeward Coast, but they have enhanced the quality of life for their their families by providing intensive primary care services in a geographic location experiencing dire shortages of health care professionals. Clearly, WCCHC's school-based program is a beacon of hope for many of our most underprivileged citizens. Public support for this program is essential for the continuation of this vital operation.

For this reason, we urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
Hearing: Thursday February 7, 2019 @ 8:30am  
Conference Room 329

By Members of



American Nurses Association  
in Hawaii

HB 1468 RELATING TO WAIANAE COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

Chair John M. Mizuno, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for HB 1468, Relating to Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC).

We are members of the American Nurses Association in Hawaii, who are registered professional nurses practicing in this state. We fully support the legislature in its efforts to promote school-based health centers to provide fully accessible and comprehensive healthcare services to adolescents. Funding an Advanced Practice Nurse position in a well-equipped clinic at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School through WCCHC is a necessity to ensure the continuation of this highly effective healthcare program.

We urge you to pass HB 1468. Thank you for your continued support of measures that recognize such excellent work as WCCHC does in initiating programs to service its population.

Contact information:

Dr. Linda Beechinor, APRN-Rx, FNP-BC  
500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E  
Honolulu Hawaii USA 96825

phone (808) 779-3001  
e-mail: [L.Beechinor@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:L.Beechinor@hawaiiantel.net)



**WAIANAE COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER**  
www.wcchc.com

**LATE**

February 5, 2019

Testimony to the House Committee on Health  
Thursday, February 7, 2019; 8:30am; Conference Room 329

**Re: HB 1468 Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center  
(Supporting School Based Health Center Services at Nanakuli High and  
Intermediate School)**

**Submitted By: Dr. Vija Sehgal, Chief Quality Officer, Dir. of School Based Health  
Services, Pediatrician, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center**

**Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee:**

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) is grateful for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 1468 providing support to School Based Health Center (SBHC) Services provided by the Health Center to Nanakuli High and Intermediate School (NHIS).

Research has demonstrated that SBHC are a model way of delivering patient-centered comprehensive adolescent health services to adolescents, especially those in rural, disparate communities. WCCHC has served the residents of the Waianae Coast since 1972, with the health of adolescents being a particular concern. Chronic physical and behavioral health problems among adolescents are common and adversely impact academic outcomes.

- Waianae children have very high rates of asthma (32%).
- Among the adolescents seen at WCCHC, 30% have long-standing obesity, including 18% with severe obesity, many with pre-diabetes.
- Waianae Coast adolescents are adversely impacted by socio-economic factors, with high absenteeism rates often resulting in poor academic achievement.

In 2015, WCCHC received a \$600,000 Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) new access point grant to open two new SBHC, one at Waianae High School (WHS) and another at Waianae Intermediate School (WIS). In partnership with the Hawaii State Department of Education, two SBHC opened in March, 2016. Through December, 2018, WCCHC has served 2,795 adolescents through 6,620 visits at SBHC, with 95% of students returning to class immediately after being seen.

Behavioral health (BH) services, provided by a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, commenced at SBHC in January, 2017. To date, 478 students have accessed BH services at SBHC through 1,567 encounters. The BH needs of adolescents seen are significant:

- Depression is common with over 20% of WHS students reporting problems related to anxiety and bullying.
- Teens frequently report difficulty sleeping, historical and personal trauma, as well as high risk behaviors such as smoking (10%), alcohol use (21%), marijuana use (21%) and other drug use (3%).
- Suicide risk is high, with 15% of WHS students having hurt themselves on purpose and 13% having attempted suicide.

WCCHC data reflects SBHC's ability to reach students that would have been less likely to access BH services at traditional clinic locations. All students seen at SBHC are self-administered a depression screen as well as a confidential survey assessing high risk behaviors. Students identified with high risk behaviors, depression or suicide ideation are immediately referred to BH. 35% of students receiving BH services at SBHC were newly identified as needing BH care.

Responding to requests from the community, as well as an invitation from NHIS administrators, WCCHC opened its third SBHC at NHIS in August, 2018, without the benefit of any Federal HRSA funding. NHIS serves the community of Nanakuli, home to the largest concentration of Native Hawaiian residents. The needs of the community are high, with per capita income among the lowest in the State. NHIS students face many academic challenges and the chronic absenteeism rate (36%) is amongst the highest in the State.

WCCHC requests \$200,000 per year to be appropriated to continue providing SBHC services at NHIS.

Thank you for considering our request through HB 1486 to support SBHC services for NHIS students.

**LATE**

**HB-1468**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:51:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Oʻahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, and members of the Health Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 1468.

[HB614](#) and [HB1468](#) are sponsored by Reps. Cedric Gates (Waianae) and Stacelynn Eli (Nanakuli) and are in support of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Healthcare Clinic. Our Democratic Platform on Oʻahu reads:

*"Access to health care is a basic human need. Our citizens and visitors have an inherent right to high quality, high standard health care. The state legislature and the federal government should take all appropriate steps to create and support a health care system of public, for profit, and nonprofit hospitals and other medical facilities that follow best practices to enhance and protect and preserve life."*

If you live on the Waianae Coast or elsewhere in the country, I don't have to tell you that access to basic services can be more difficult compared to in town. Because the Party supports fair healthcare access for our rural residents, this is also in keeping with the Health section of our Democratic State and County platforms. If you too believe that this is the right thing for our people on the Leeward side, please vote in *support* for both bills.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Dylan P. Armstrong, Vice Chair  
Oʻahu County Democrats

**HB-1468**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:11:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Frank DeGiacomo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Waianae Coast NEEDS Waianae Comp. The state should be thankful for them. They are mitigating the damage from decades of neglect and environmental injustice in that area.

**HB-1468**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:38:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The WCCHC provides essential primary and emergency care services to patients on the Leeward side of our island who would otherwise have extremely limited options to access healthcare in their community. Residents of rural areas rely on healthcare providers in their communities to address both preventative health, such as vaccinations and smoking cessation, and emergency care that would otherwise be substantially delayed. The WCCHC is an essential safety net for the community, and must be supported in whatever way we can. Thank you.

**HB-1468**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:30:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Phebe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Waianae and I support this bill.

Thank you

February 6, 2019

**LATE**

**TO: Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health – Thursday, February 7, 2019, 2018; 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1468 Relating to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center**

**SUBMITTED BY: Judy Babson**

**Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Committee members:**

My name is Judy Babson, and I've lived in Makaha since 1982, and a Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (Health Center) board member.

I am requesting your support of HB 1468 to ensure funding for our third school based health center on the Waianae Coast at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School.

We have seen the success of our school based services at Waianae High and Intermediate Schools since 2016. It is vitally important to provide the same level of services at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School. A full service clinic at Nanakuli High and Intermediate would assure that adolescents along the entire Waianae Coast have an avenue to address their health and mental health needs so that they can remain in school, achieve their high school diploma, and be supported to continue their education.

**Mahalo for your support of HB 1468.**

**Judy Babson  
JBabson@hawaii.rr.com**