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February 12, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 785](#) – RELATING TO GRANTS.

Hearing: February 14, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and provides comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill authorizes the Department of Human Services to appoint an existing employee to apply for and manage grants, request grant writing assistance from other state agencies, or contract or employ a dedicated capture manager for this purpose.

The DHS Director's Office staff research grant proposals, apply for grants, coordinate support letters, and manage grant-funded projects. Grant management requires knowledge of internal state fiscal and federal grant processes, preparing budgets, establishing work plans and project team meetings, and preparing grant and legislative reports. However, we can only pursue opportunities if we have the available staff capacity; having a dedicated employee to manage the grant process will be helpful. HB 339 adds permanent exempt positions to the Director's Office to assist in grant and project management and implementation. Ensuring HB 339 passes and becomes law will facilitate this measure's intent.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, February 14, 2023; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0785, RELATING TO GRANTS.

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the 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. 0785, RELATING TO GRANTS.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved 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 healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would authorize the Department of Human Services to appoint an existing employee to apply for and manage grants, request grant writing assistance from other state agencies, or contract or employ a dedicated capture manager for this purpose.

Because the majority of our patients are Medicaid recipients, reimbursement for services provided at FQHCs is extremely complex given the multiple streams of funding received from the federal and State governments. The availability of funding is often volatile due to changes in federal and State laws as well as the manner in which these laws are implemented and enforced. In this environment, it is not only prudent but necessary for the State to seek new sources of funding and devise creative ways of capturing and securing resources.

The HPCA further notes that this idea is not new. In fact, the HPCA testified in support of a substantively similar bill during the Regular Session of 2019 -- Senate Bill No. 0529. In that testimony, we also noted that we had testified in support of a substantively similar measure the year before -- Senate Bill No. 2526.

Testimony on House Bill No. 0785
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Perhaps it might be more insightful for this Committee to work with the Administration to see whether additional resources or the establishment of dedicated positions specifically for this purpose are needed, and to have this requested by the Department through the normal budget process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

HB-785

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:15:23 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/14/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
V Butler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill