

# STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, MD  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELA

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD  
ADMINISTRATOR

January 29, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair;  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair; and  
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: **SB 2701 – Relating to West Hawai'i Regional Healthcare System**

HEARING: Monday, February 02, 2026 @ 1:05 pm; Conference Room 225

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

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### Testimony:

SHPDA fully supports the need for this proposed new and major outpatient center for the West Hawai'i Regional Healthcare System.

West Hawai'i's health services are not keeping up with the growth of the region and with the pressing needs for more access to care and more modern and sophisticated services.

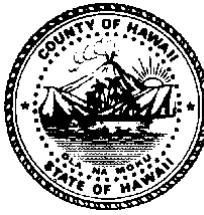
We defer to Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (and the potential of Queens Health System as a partner) on the amounts of funding and implementation planning needed.

This necessary expansion of outpatient services is, however, overdue and necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

– Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA

**C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.**  
Mayor



**William V. Brilhante, Jr.**  
Managing Director

**Merrick Nishimoto**  
Deputy Managing Director

## *County of Hawai'i ~ Office of the Mayor*

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • Phone (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
Phone (808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

Testimony of  
**C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.**  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Before the Senate Committee on  
**Health and Human Services**

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

**Monday, February 2, 2026, at 1:05 P.M.**  
State Capitol Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**Senate Bill 2701**  
**Relating to the West Hawai'i Health Care Regional System**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee,

The County of Hawai'i strongly supports Senate Bill 2701, which appropriates funds for the planning, design, site work, and construction of a new outpatient care center in North Kona.

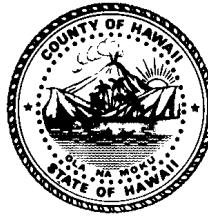
Timely, reliable health care remains a challenge in West Hawai'i. In North Kona, population growth has outpaced the growth of outpatient and specialty services, leading to longer travel times, delayed care, and pressure on emergency resources. This bill addresses these issues by advancing the construction of a new outpatient care center.

This investment aligns with the 2024 needs assessment and statewide planning efforts. It also directly addresses the daily challenges faced by West Hawai'i residents and first responders.

The County also emphasizes our readiness and commitment to support this project. We are prepared to coordinate permitting and infrastructure connections to help ensure the project moves forward efficiently. From our perspective, Senate Bill 2701 is an investment that must proceed without delay and will provide tangible benefits to our island community.

Beyond better access to care, this project supports workforce stability and economic growth islandwide. It will attract medical professionals and create more quality jobs. The outpatient center also establishes a foundation for expanding hospital services, a critical long-term need for West Hawai'i.

I strongly support Senate Bill 2701. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**LATE**

## HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL

*County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

February 2, 2026

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

RE: **Support for SB2701**, Relating to the West Hawai'i Regional Health Care System; Appropriates funds for the planning, design, site work, and construction of a new outpatient care center in north Kona.  
Hearing: **Monday, February 2, 2026 at 1:05 p.m.**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Council District 8 in North Kona, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB2701.

Access to timely, quality health care remains a critical concern for West Hawai'i residents. Too many families face long travel times and limited availability for basic outpatient and preventive services. This measure represents an important investment in expanding local health care capacity, reducing barriers to care, and strengthening the health care infrastructure that our communities rely upon.

SB2701 will help ensure that residents of North Kona and surrounding areas can receive essential outpatient services closer to home, while also supporting the health care workforce and improving overall system resilience on Hawai'i Island.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of SB2701 and make this vital investment in our community's health and safety. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holeka Goro Inaba".

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HOLEKA GORO INABA, Ed.D.,  
Council Chair, District 8, North Kona

79-1019 Haukapila St. Kealakekua, HI 96750  
phone: 808.322.4423 fax: 808.322.4488 clayton.mcghanl@hhsc.org

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Clayton McGhan, Regional Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems, West Hawaii Region

SUBJECT: SB 2701 – Relating to the West Hawaii Regional Health Care System

DATE: February 2, 2026

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) – West Hawai'i Region, we submit this testimony in strong support of SB2701, which provides critical state funding for the planning and early development of an Outpatient Care Center to serve West Hawai'i.

West Hawai'i is facing growing challenges in access to care as our population continues to increase, age, and shift northward. Kona Community Hospital is experiencing capacity constraints that contribute to longer wait times and limited access to specialty services. Many outpatient and specialty services remain dispersed across small, aging facilities that are no longer adequate to meet the health care needs of our region.

An independent analysis conducted by ECG Management Consultants underscores the urgency of this issue. The study found that approximately 40% of inpatient cases and 62% of outpatient procedures for West Hawai'i residents currently occur off-island or outside the region. Patients routinely experience wait times exceeding 30 to 60 days for critical specialties such as cardiology, pediatrics, and orthopedics. These access challenges are further compounded by a shortage of at least 25 physicians across key service areas. The Legislature has already demonstrated its commitment to addressing these challenges by funding the needs assessment and site assessment that informed both the planning and location of the proposed Outpatient Care Center.

SB2701 supports the development of an Outpatient Care Center on three to five acres of land generously donated by The Queen's Health Systems, adjacent to its new hospital campus. The proposed facility, totaling more than 50,000 square feet, will

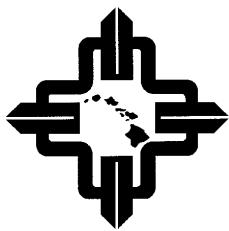


consolidate outpatient and specialty services into a single, modern, and accessible location. This center will complement services at Kona Community Hospital while expanding capacity to meet current and future community needs.

Importantly, this project delivers near-term benefits while broader hospital planning continues. By expanding outpatient and specialty care capacity, the Outpatient Care Center will reduce wait times, improve the patient experience, and keep more care in West Hawai'i—minimizing the need for costly and disruptive off-island travel. The facility will also strengthen the local health care workforce by helping attract and retain physicians, nurses, and specialists, while creating new clinical and support jobs for island residents.

HHSC – West Hawai'i Region's request for state funding to support planning, design, grading, and other preparatory work is a necessary and prudent step to move this project forward. Early investment now will strengthen West Hawai'i's health care infrastructure and ensure our community has timely, equitable access to the care they deserve.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your strong support of SB2701. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.



## **HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS** C O R P O R A T I O N

*"Quality Healthcare For All"*

### **COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair**  
**Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair**

February 2, 2026  
1:05 PM  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Room 225 & Via Videoconference

#### **Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2701**

Appropriates funds for the planning, design, site work, and construction of a new outpatient care center in North Kona.

Edward N. Chu  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of **SB 2701**.

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) and Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly develop an Outpatient Care Center in Kona that will house clinical services and office space and ensure continuity of care for patients throughout the community. Under this collaboration, Queen's will donate approximately three to five acres of land to HHSC's West Hawaii Region as the future site of a 50,000+-square-foot medical facility adjacent to the new hospital that Queen's has already announced it is building. HHSC is asking for an initial \$50 million in state funding support for the planning, design, and site work of the new facility.

The new Outpatient Care Center will be located in the central part of Kailua-Kona to ensure area patients have easy access to services. The Outpatient Care Center strengthens the HHSC West Hawaii Region's healthcare infrastructure by:

- **Expanding Access to Care:** Increasing outpatient and specialty care capacity in one integrated location.
- **Improve Patient Experience:** Reducing travel and wait times through centralized services.
- **Growing the Workforce:** Attracting and retaining physicians, nurses, and specialists, which will create new clinical and support opportunities for local residents.

HHSC would propose an amendment to Section 2 of this bill to replace the words "general revenues" with "general obligation bond funds" to be consistent with the Governor's budget recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



# THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Jason C. Chang, Chief Executive Officer, The Queen's Health Systems  
Jacce S. Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 2, 2026

Re: Support of SB2701 – Relating to the West Hawai'i Regional Health Care System.

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The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB2701, which appropriates \$50 million dollars to the HHSC for planning, design, and construction of a new outpatient care center in North Kona on the Island of Hawai'i. We are honored to be working alongside our colleagues on Hawai'i Island to bring to fruition a new, state-of-the-art medical campus to provide needed medical services to the Kona, and surrounding, communities.

In December of last year, Queen's and HHSC signed an agreement to jointly develop an Outpatient Care Center in Kona that will house clinical services and office space, as well as ensure continuity of care for patients throughout the community. Under this collaboration, Queen's will donate approximately five acres of land to HHSC's West Hawaii Region as the future site of a 50,000-square-foot medical facility adjacent to the new hospital that Queen's plans to construct.

This effort represents a unique opportunity to expand health care access for a growing community through a shared investment between the state and Queen's. The new Center will provide a seamless transition between inpatient and outpatient care, while creating a one-stop hub for primary and specialty care services that will reduce wait and travel times for patients. The construction of the facility is expected to create jobs and, once completed, will enhance West Hawaii Region's ability to attract and retain providers at a time when the community is facing a critical physician shortage. Hawai'i Island patients have already begun seeing the benefit of our collaboration with HHSC, as Queen's surgeons are currently rotating at Kona Community Hospital.

*The mission of The Queen's Health System 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.*

We are grateful to the Legislature and Governor Josh Green for your support of this project. We look forward to deepening our relationship with the Kona community and Hawai'i Island through this project.

Mahalo for allowing Queen's to provide testimony in support of SB2701.



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

### THE SENATE KA 'AHA KENEKOA

### THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

#### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Monday, February 2, 2026, 1:05 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

#### Re: Testimony on SB2701 – RELATING TO THE WEST HAWAII REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) supports SB2701, which appropriates funds for the planning, design, site work, and construction of a new outpatient care center in North Kona

With the announced partnership between Hawaii Health Systems Corporation’s (“HHSC”) West Region, Queen’s Health Systems, and Alii Health Center that was announced last year, we believe a new outpatient care facility in North Kona will provide our members in West Hawaii with greater access to the high-level care they deserve.

As the exclusive representative for Bargaining Unit 10 healthcare workers, who are employed in the West Hawaii Region of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, as well as nearly 1,500 healthcare workers in the private sector across the state, we believe this facility is a critical step toward creating additional employment opportunities and developing a sustainable workforce in West Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**SB-2701**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:38:11 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/2/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!!

**SB-2701**

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 2:07:39 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/2/2026 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

The Kona side of the big island desperately needs a community health center. Primary care is the front line of defense against people waiting too long for effective treatment. Without primary care access people suffer consequences of untreated chronic diseases that are not effectively addressed in emergency rooms. Please fund this needed service.