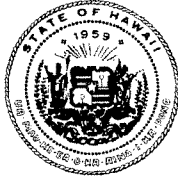


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 26, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 703 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

Hearing: Thursday, February 26, 2009 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the State's portion of the Federal disproportionate share hospital allowance.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: While the Department of Human Services (DHS) acknowledges that this measure has merit, DHS must respectfully oppose this bill, because, given the current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time.

Disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payment is intended to help offset some of the cost of uncompensated care delivered by hospitals. Unlike other provider types, hospitals have no theoretic floor to their losses since they care for anyone who enters their emergency rooms.

Thanks to the efforts of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation and of others, a Federal Medicaid DSH allowance of \$2.5 million per quarter through December 31, 2009 had been previously appropriated and recently extended for two additional years at the same funding level. DSH payments through June 30, 2008 have been accessed and paid by DHS to hospitals based on a distribution formula developed by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH).

DSH funds are accessed as a Federal match to a State share that can be a new State appropriation or existing expenditure, such as certified expenditures of the Hawaii Health System Corporation (HHSC). The State share needed varies based on the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) at the time the Federal funds are drawn down.

While the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) does increase the FMAP for Hawaii and all other states for a limited period of time, the ARRA does not allow states to use the enhanced FMAP for the purposes of determining the required state match for DSH.

Therefore, to obtain the \$10 million of DSH available for July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, a State share of \$8,145,527 will be needed which, given the State's current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time

Also, please note that DHS has been distributing the "DSH-like" Federal funds of \$7.5 million per year to hospitals statewide since 2005 pursuant to our Medicaid 1115 waiver and DHS distributes these funds based on the same DSH formula developed by HAH.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 26, 2009

H.B. 703 – RELATING
TO HEALTH

The Hawaii Government Employees Association strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 703, which provides an appropriation of more than \$10.18 million in State matching funds so that the State can receive \$12.5 million through the federal Medicaid disproportionate share hospital allowance.

This measure will enable the State to meet rising health care costs and ensure that Hawaii's vulnerable populations have access to quality health care. These federal Medicaid funds along with those provided by the State also ensure that the actual costs of care are covered.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 703.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director



**Testimony to the House Committees on Finance
Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol
Agenda #7**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 703 RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chairs Lee, and members of the committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 703 relating to Health.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This measure appropriates money to match federal funds for medicaid.

The Chamber commends the Legislature for playing an active role in passing legislation that appropriates money to match federal funds in the past couple of sessions.

Quality health care is critical to the people and economy of Hawaii. As one of the largest private industries in Hawaii, the health care industry plays an important role in our economy, particularly through attractive, well-paying jobs and through the purchase of goods and services that contribute to our state's economy. As such, the health care industry plays a crucial role in the economic development and sustainability of our state and all of Hawaii's businesses. Also, Hawaii's healthcare system provides quality care for our families and serves to attract and retain a professional workforce, new companies, and even tourists to our state.

However, the quality healthcare that Hawaii has enjoyed for years is now in jeopardy. It is on the verge of declining because healthcare providers are no longer being paid for essential services at a level sufficient to cover annually increasing costs. The health care system must be maintained and challenges must be addressed.

Therefore, The Chamber supports prescriptions of improvements of the quality of our health care system, which include legislation that will improve payments to health care providers of essential health care services and increase long term care capacity and access statewide. Appropriating funds to match the federal funding for medicaid is the first step in the right direction to ameliorate the current state of health care in Hawaii.

In light of the above, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii supports HB 703. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair

Date: February 26, 2009 - Conference Room 308 – 4:00 p.m.

Re: **HB 703, RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Oshiro and members of the committee:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with nearly 160,000 members in Hawaii. We are committed to championing access to affordable, quality health care for all generations, providing the tools needed to save for retirement, and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

AARP strongly supports HB 703. Its purpose is to maximize the availability of the federal disproportionate share hospital allowance to the State.

Hawaii has a population of low-income citizens with limited health care options. Among them are our low-income elderly who are disproportionately affected by the rising costs of health care and other daily expenses. More than one fifth (21.2%) of Hawaii adults aged 60 and older have an income below 200% of the poverty threshold.

By securing these federal funds, Hawaii's Congressional delegation has enabled the State to increase the total amount of funding for Hawai'i hospitals to serve persons who are indigent. The availability of these funds is more critical than ever in light of the State's fiscal crisis, and will provide much needed support to safety net hospitals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Conference Room 308
February 26 at 4:00 p.m. (Agenda #7)

Testimony in support of HB 703.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 703, which appropriates State funds that are needed to match federal funds. These funds are available to help sustain hospitals providing care to low-income patients who do not have insurance and cannot afford to pay for their care.

The Association would like to acknowledge the efforts of the current administration, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, and the State Legislature in providing a series of DSH payments to Hawaii's hospitals. It began several years ago when the current administration aggressively pursued and secured federal DSH funds. Subsequent funding was obtained through the assistance of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation. Federal DSH funds have been matched by the Legislature in the past, and we seek that again today.

Hospitals and other health care providers are suffering financially because of low payments by Medicare, Medicaid, and private health care insurers. DSH funding recognizes that hospitals provide care to a substantial number of patients who do not have the financial resources to pay for their care. The \$10.2 million appropriation contained in this bill is the required State match to draw down \$12.5 million in federal funds that are available. The funding would be very much appreciated by the provider institutions. However, it should be noted that the DSH funding covers only a small portion of the total costs of caring for patients who cannot pay for their care.

In addition to supporting Hawaii's hospitals, the federal funds that would be drawn down represent an infusion of money into Hawaii's economy during these harsh economic times.

For the foregoing reasons the Healthcare Association strongly supports HB 703.

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 26, 2009

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

Re: HB 703 – Relating to Health

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 703.

HB 703 provides an appropriation that would enable Hawaii to receive Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding from the Federal Government. Congress established the DSH program in 1981 to help ensure that states provide adequate financial support to hospitals that serve a significant number of low-income patients with special needs. However, since 1993, as part of the agreement for the establishment of Med-QUEST, Hawaii has not qualified for DSH dollars. This year, as in last, legislation to provide the state's share would allow hospitals to receive needed funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 703.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 538-9011 • Fax: (808) 547-4646

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

February 26, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

In Strong Support of HB 703, Relating to Health

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rick Keene, and I am The Queen's Health Systems Executive VP and Chief Financial Officer. I am testifying for The Queen's Medical Center in strong support of HB 703 which appropriates State funds to match federal funding of \$12,500,000 for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allowance for Medicaid/Quest patients.

Medicaid/Quest is the cornerstone of health care for our most needy population. Hawaii's hospitals in particular have been detrimentally affected by the inadequacy of Medicaid/Quest reimbursements and payments, and have annually lost tens of millions of dollars because government reimbursement is far below the cost of providing medical care. In fiscal year 2008, The Queen's Medical Center treated 4,694 inpatients and 29,785 outpatients who were covered by Medicaid/Quest. The October 2008 report "Issues Impacting Hawaii's Hospitals, Nursing Facilities, Home Care and Hospice Providers" by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, found that in 2007, losses for Medicaid, Quest and uninsured patients in Hawaii were approximately \$48,100,000.

The proposed State funding of \$10,181,909, combined with the federal appropriation will supplement the reimbursement shortfall for Medicaid/Quest patients. Without state matching funds, the federal funding will be lost. Your support and approval of HB 703 is crucial toward enabling Hawaii's hospitals to continue to serve the needy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of
Frank P. Richardson
Vice President and Regional Counsel

Before:
House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

February 26, 2009
4:00 pm
Conference Room 308

HB 703 RELATING TO HEALTH (DSH Match)

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB703 that would appropriate funds to match federal funding for the disproportionate share hospital allowance.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

The cost of delivering health care in Hawaii and across the nation continues to mount. In an effort to ensure that health care payments are sufficient to cover the actual costs of care provided to Medicaid patients in hospitals in Hawaii, Kaiser Hawaii supports this measure to appropriate the required state funds necessary to match the federal Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) appropriation of \$12,500,000 for Hawaii in 2009.

The proposed State appropriation of \$10,181,909, together with the federal appropriation, will help support funding of quality health care for the State of Hawaii's Medicaid population, and provide much needed assistance in covering the actual costs of the care provided.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 3:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: beatleukemia@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB703 on 2/26/2009 4:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/26/2009 4:00:00 PM HB703

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Chris Pablo
Organization: Healthcare Association of Hawaii
Address: 932 Ward Ave., Suite 430 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 521-8961
E-mail: beatleukemia@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/25/2009

Comments: