





*KOKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES*

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Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

**LATE**

Committee on Health  
Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

2/2/2015

Dear Leaders and Members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 908. In support of this Bill, I would like you to know the following things about the care we provide to the members of our Kalihi Valley Community. Last year we provided high quality oral health services to over well over 1000 adults who were on Medicaid and for whom we were (with only emergency exceptions) unable to receive Medicaid payments for those services. These are not folks coming to us for cosmetic dental reasons, but are our neighbors with both acute and chronic oral health conditions that cause them tremendous suffering, loss of work, poor prospects for finding employment and put them at risk for other serious chronic health conditions. Frankly, it is inconceivable to me that just because through historical accident the mouth was separated from the body into medicine versus dentistry, that we should tolerate a system in which someone can get emergency care for a paper cut but not be able seek care for serious conditions in one of the most important organs in the body, the mouth! Please find a way to restore a Medicaid Dental benefit. This money will be matched by Federal dollars, will save money on unnecessary trips to the emergency room, will help to improve not just adults oral health but that of their children. And will alleviate an awful lot of needless suffering in our communities!

The second portion of the bill I would highlight is the need for the health centers of Hawaii to be able to move ahead with the provisions of the ACA around establishing Health Care Homes for patients with serious disabling chronic diseases. These funds will go a long way to bolstering critically needed changes in the way we help to manage chronic disease outside of our offices, which is where real care happens. The opportunity exists to not only improve health outcomes for these people but to save the State money on unnecessary hospital and Emergency room costs by better patient engagement, better care coordination and care management, and novel strategies to involve patients, their families and the larger community in addressing

Providing Medical & Dental Services, Health Education, Family Planning, Perinatal, WIC and Social  
Services to

Kalihi Valley residents since 1972. Neighbors being neighborly to neighbors.

the cause of poor health. Our staff and community are eager to move ahead with these improvements to the way we provide care and accessing this federal funds through a state program will jumpstart our efforts!

Thank you for your support for the many thousands of Medicaid recipients whose health will benefit from this bill.

David D Derauf MD MPH

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2015 4:01 PM  
**To:** HSH Testimony  
**Cc:** dshaw@lanaicommunityhealthcenter.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB908 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM

**LATE**

**Categories:** Red Category

**SB908**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HSH/HTH on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

| Submitted By | Organization                  | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Diana Shaw   | Lanai Community Health Center | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Testimony on Senate Bill 908 Relating to Health Submitted by Diana M V Shaw, Executive Director February 3, 2015, 2015, 1:20 pm, Room 016 Lanai Community Health Center supports Senate Bill 908, making appropriations to the Department of Human Services for services to qualified individuals and families. In particular:

- Section 3 of this measure appropriates \$4.8 million dollars to restore an adult dental benefit in Medicaid. All fourteen of my sister and brother community health centers provide dental services. Given the correlation between dental health with other health conditions, and the fact that 50% of community health centers patients are Medicaid enrollees, we strongly believe the restoration of adult dental benefits (aside from emergency procedures) is critical and see this as a start.
- Section 4 appropriates \$800,000 in funding for outreach and eligibility services at community health centers. Outreach workers at community health centers provide an essential service to the State and communities by assisting individuals and families in applying for not just Medicaid, but other State assistance programs. These include SNAP, TANF, and other essential services that speak to the social determinants of health and their direct impact on the well-being of communities in Hawaii. Especially on Lanai, where there are few resources to assist our immigrant population - these dollars are critical. Of special note here is that outreach funding differs greatly from any assistance rendered by the KOKUA program administered by the Hawaii Health Connector. Those funds are for the specific purpose of providing assistance to health insurance enrollment only, saying nothing of the other vital social programs housed in the Department of Human Services. In addition, not all fourteen health centers currently participate in the Connector KOKUA program.
- Section 5 allocates \$1 million dollars from the community health center special fund as an interdepartmental transfer from the Department of Health to the Department of Human Services. These funds are intended to be used as the state match for a Medicaid health home state plan amendment to provide health home services to qualified patients at community health centers. Community health centers have worked extensively to both research and implement health homes in recent years, having completed a standalone pilot project with quantifiable positive results. To date, ten separate community health centers have been awarded recognition as health home providers by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the federal accrediting body. The remaining health centers (including LCHC) are in the process of filing their application. The release of this funding will not only allow for enhanced services for patients at community health centers, it will take advantage of a 9-to-1 federal match that will bring a total of \$20M into the Hawaii healthcare

infrastructure. Such funding could prove vital to closing any existing health inequities in the state. For these reasons the LCHC supports this measure and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

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