

Harry Kim
Mayor



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February 21, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2617 Relating to Emergency Services

Ka'u Hospital is a small rural facility serving a very large geographic area. Although the traditional population centers of Pahala and Naalehu are fairly stable, the number of residents in Ocean View has grown enormously (including a large Micronesian population), and so has traffic (and the potential for traffic-related injuries). While Ocean View can be serviced by either Ka'u Hospital or Kona Community Hospital, the need for urgent care in Ka'u is clear.

I know you have limited resources and unlimited priorities, but a year ago this Committee and the full Senate passed a bill, SB 1410, to help Ka'u, recognizing that it would constitute a small investment of funds with life-saving rewards. SB 1410 died in Finance, but we hope you will try again.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 5:14:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	Testifying for East Hawaii Region of HHSC	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the East Hawaii Region of the Hawaii Health Systems Coporation consisting of Hilo Medical Center, Hale Ho`ola Hamakua, and Ka`u Hospital, we strongly support SB2617.



February 24, 2020

To: The House Committee Members on Ways and Means
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support of SB2617, Relating to Emergency Services

Hrg: February 25, 2020 at 12:40 PM at Capitol Room 211

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly **supports** SB2617, which would appropriate \$700,000 to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation to expand the Ka'u Rural Health Clinic to improve access to urgent care and outpatient behavioral health services.

Behavioral health disorders (such as mental and emotional illnesses and substance abuse) account for almost one third of the overall disease burden across the country.[1] This outpaces any other disease or condition. Approximately half of the United States population will experience a behavioral health disorder in their lifetime. Additionally, significant symptoms of behavioral health disorders occur before a diagnosis can be made by 2 years and there is an average 10-year delay in receiving treatment.[2] The need for accessible behavioral health treatment is both urgent and important.

The resident population of Ka'u is approximately 52,000 people. In her February 10th testimony, Ka'u Hospital Administrator Marilyn Harris stated that the existing facility includes only four-bed emergency department, twenty-one inpatient beds for acute/rehab and long-term care, and the family practice rural health clinic. Over 4,000 patient visits are made to the family practice rural health clinic annually, illustrating the need for and use of this clinic. Increasing the clinic's ability to provide urgent and behavioral health care will improve the health and well-being of Ka'u residents. HPHA urges successful passage of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claire Townsend Ing', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH
Legislative Committee Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association



Works Cited:

1. Kessler RC, Aguilar-Gaxiola S, Alonso J, et al. The global burden of mental disorders: an update from the WHO World Mental Health (WMH) Surveys. *Epidemiol Psychiatry*. 2009;18:23–33.
2. National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. *Depression in Parents, Parenting, and Children: Opportunities to Improve Identification, Treatment, and Prevention*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press; 2009.

LATE

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 12:40:13 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward H. Rau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Discovery Harbour, near the south tip of the Big Island. The nearest full service hospitals from us are at Kona and Hilo requiring 1.5 to two hours driving time to get to from our area. This is well beyond the critical time of about 45 minutes needed to successfully treat some cardiovascular conditions and other emergencies. Other clinics in the area have limited hours and offer minimal services.

The emergency and urgent health care services provided by Kau Rural Health Clinic often provide us with the only option for obtaining critical services. Twice in the last month my wife has needed urgent care following a fall and diabetic emergency. We were able to get the services we needed at the Kau Clinic and were seen promptly upon our arrival.

The Clinic needs more funding to continue and expand these services. We strongly support SB2617.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Edward H. Rau

SB-2617

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 12:57:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne	Individual	Support	No

Comments: