



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Hon. Tom Brower, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

The Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2467

Relating to Medical Assistance

**Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer
February 4, 2010 9:00 a.m. Agenda, Room 329**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association strongly supports this measure, which would ensure that immigrants and migrants to Hawaii have access to essential health care. We believe that this could be a very cost-effective approach. For migrants this program would fulfill our basic humanitarian obligation to continue to meet the basic health care needs of people who should be entitled to our support. Fewer immigrants would need this help because most get health coverage through employment but the availability of this safety net is also needed.

We would like propose that the bill also require that Medicaid prospective payment system (PPS) rates be paid to any federally qualified health center (FQHC) that renders care under this program. Migrants and immigrants who would be eligible for this assistance are more likely to need considerable case management, health education, linguistic and cultural support, and other services in order to improve health and restore productivity. Without such additional services, the beneficiaries are much more likely to end up with costly emergency needs and hospitalizations. FQHCs offer the extensive array of health care enabling services needed for these groups and are proven to reduce costs by investing more in primary care and care management. Accordingly, migrants and immigrants should be encouraged or even mandated to use FQHCs (most already do) and the FQHCs must be paid adequately to render effective care. We also propose a clarifying amendment to Section 1 lines 10 through 13 to reflect that the dialysis or chemotherapy treatments do not count toward in the inpatient and outpatient visits granted in Section 1 lines 1 through 10, if that is the intent.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.