



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street | Suite 601 | Honolulu, HI 96813-4718 | Tel: 808.536.8442 | Fax: 808.524.0347
www.hawaiipca.net

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 2469

Making an Emergency Appropriation for the Department of Human Services to Address the Budget Shortfall for Hawaii QUEST

**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 ultimately ensure that health care is available to patients covered under the QUEST plan. In 2008, 41% of all patients seen at community health centers were covered by QUEST; that represents approximately 21% of the entire QUEST enrollment. The Department of Human Services has announced that they will not be able to pay plans throughout the last quarter of this fiscal year. Delaying payment to plans for three months jeopardizes the ability of plans to pay providers, and for QUEST members to receive health care. We appreciate the economic crisis that the entire state is facing, however people's health should not be one of the priorities that we compromise.

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