



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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Senate Committee on Health

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2103
Relating to the Federal Disproportionate Share Hospital Funds
Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer
February 1, 2010 2:45 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association supports this measure which would appropriate funds to attract a significant federal match for Medicaid services provided by Hawaii's disproportionate share hospitals. Our hospital network must be supported to ensure the continued availability of high quality emergency and in-patient services. While the payment is related to services for Medicaid beneficiaries, who tend to be sicker and have more socio-economic complications, it also affects every Hawaii resident and visitor who should be confident that our hospitals have the capacity to meet our needs.

As a secondary concern, hospitals function as an important part of our economy, providing jobs and attracting diverse revenues. Securing additional federal money, therefore, also contributes to our ailing economy.

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