



## 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 Nishimoto, Vice Chair

## **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2469, SD 2** **Relating to the Emergency & Budget Reserve Fund** **Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer** **March 11, 2010, 9:30 p.m., Room 329**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association strongly supports this bill to ensure adequate funding for essential services in the face of our state and national economic crisis. Each of the items identified for funding in SB 2469 is important to the health and well-being of Hawai'i. Each contributes substantially to preventing far worse calamities and costs than we currently experience.

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association particularly asks your support for:

- Section 8 that calls for funds to delivery mental health services.
- Section 10 that calls for adequate funding for health care provided to the uninsured by restoring dollars eliminated from the budget last year at a time when funds were most needed. (\$3.5 million).
- Section 13 that appropriates funds to subsidize the costs of the emergency room at Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. (\$332,000).
- Section 16, which would continue funding for the Immigrant Health Initiative, a program that served 1,667 low income immigrants last year. (\$550,000).
- Section 17, which would restore funding for the "Keiki Care" program. (\$600,000).
- Sections 20, 21, 29, and 30, which fund various parts of the Medicaid program including Disproportionate Share Hospitals and adult dental care.
- Sections 22-25, which would restore funding for Outstationed Eligibility Workers at community health centers and pay for outreach in high risk communities to ensure that vulnerable individuals are linked to public benefits for which they are eligible. These workers find the uninsured who are eligible for Med-QUEST and other programs and assist them to submit complete applications so they can get needed health care. Given the drastic cuts in MQD staffing, this community-based service is needed more than ever.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure and for considering the needs of the growing number of uninsured residents of Hawaii, as well as many other people who are more vulnerable than ever during this unsettling time.