



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Human Services and
Health

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by

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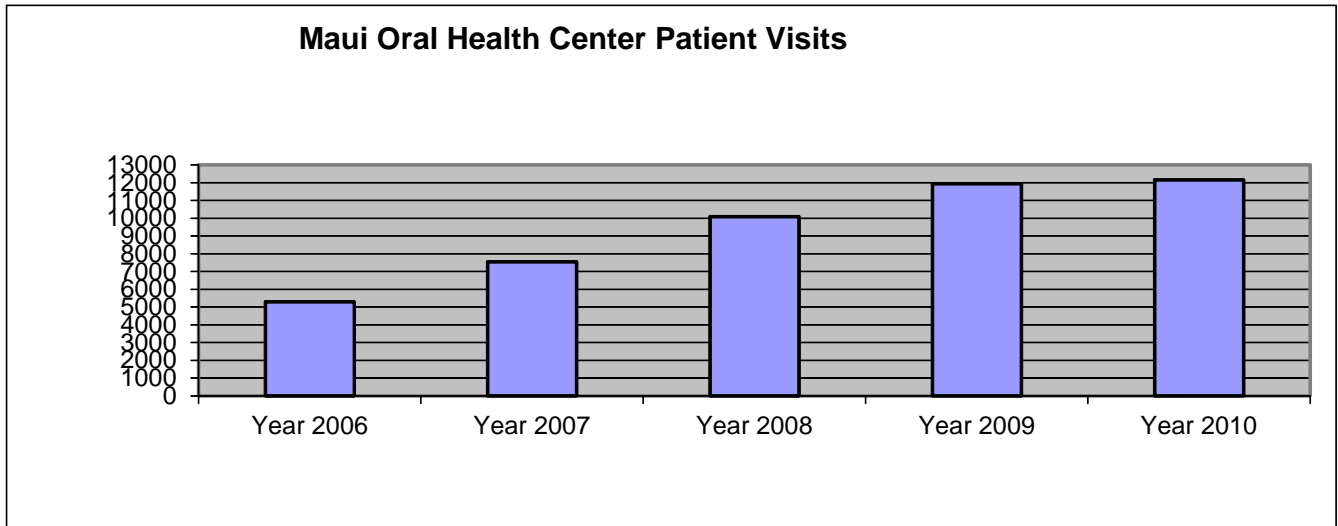
Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

SB 2659 – RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND

Chairs Chun Oakland and Green and Vice Chairs Ihara and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports Senate Bill 2659 – Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund. The bill includes a line item request to support the UH Maui College Maui Oral Health Center via funds that will be expended by the Department of Human Services.

With support from the Hawai'i Department of Human Services from 2002-2010, the "Rainy Day fund" in 2011, and the County of Maui, we have developed the UH Maui College Maui Oral Health Center (MOHC). The mission of the MOHC is to provide educational training while servicing the needy with oral care. The MOHC provides the clinical education site for the Dental Assisting (DA) Certificate and the Dental Hygiene (DH) Associate Degree Programs. In addition, it services as the primary access to dental care for Medicaid eligible and uninsured dental patients on Maui. Currently, UH Maui College MOHC has 2 full time staff dentists, and 2 dentists enrolled in the residence program from Lutheran Medical Center in New York. The American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredits all the DA, DH, and Dental Residency programs. The table below illustrates the growth in the number of patient visits. There are between 800-1,000 patient visits per month at the Maui Oral Health Center.



In 2011, UHMC was recognized by the Hawai'i Dental Association for collaborative activities to enhance dental care on Maui and in Hawai'i. It is important to note that without access to dental care, patients with acute dental problems seek care in the Maui Memorial Medical Center Emergency room, the most expensive care possible. The table below illustrates DHS data that shows the cost of flying dental patients to O'ahu for care. The low number of patients that flew to O'ahu from Maui is due to access on Maui at MOHC.

Neighbor Island patients to Oahu 7/1/09-6/30/10

	# Children	\$ Children	# Adult	\$ Adult	TOTAL #	TOTAL \$
Hilo	1752	\$517,892.60	7	\$ 1,148.20	1759	\$519,040.80
Kona	382	\$120,716.59	4	\$ 1,259.30	386	\$121,975.89
Maui	187	\$ 57,859.72	27	\$ 5,174.35	214	\$ 63,034.07
Lana'i	8	\$ 2,496.00	2	\$ 669.00	10	\$ 3,165.00
Kaua'i	371	\$112,440.17	86	\$15,330.54	457	\$127,770.71
Moloka'i	106	\$ 46,741.10	8	\$ 2,466.60	114	\$ 49,207.70
TOTAL	2806	\$858,146.18	134	\$26,047.99	2940	\$884,194.17

The MOHC provides critical oral care to a segment of our community that is needy and underserved, reduces a costly statewide concern and provides meaningful clinical educational experiences for our students.