

The House of Representatives  
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009

Committee on Finance  
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 27, 2009  
TIME: 2:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 308

**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, AFSCME, LOCAL 646, AFL-CIO  
ON H.B. 1231, RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

The United Public Workers, Local, 646, opposes this measure which establishes a transitional management team within the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to plan for necessary restructuring to ensure the strength of the state's health care safety net. When HHSC was established in 1996 there was great hope and promise that through restructuring the State of Hawaii's community hospital system, and granting autonomy to an "independent agency of the state" there would be improvements in the quality and affordability of health care for the people. Instead, each year the legislature is asked to pay more and more. The estimated HHSC shortfall for fiscal year 2008-2009, as you know, is \$40,000,000 and the projected deficit for fiscal year 2009-2010 is \$62,000,000. The union submits that establishing a transitional management team to plan for restructuring will not work and it is time to seriously consider restoring our community hospital system to the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, which existed prior to 1996.