

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. 1607, RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

The United Public Workers, Local 646, opposes this measure which restructures the Hawaii Health System Corporation so the Corporate Board takes on a new role as a service and coordination group to assist the Regional Boards in improving public hospital services. 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 restructuring the duties and powers of HHSC's corporate board 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.