



**House Committee on Health  
Friday, February 2, 2007, 8:30 a.m.**

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 843, H.B. 965 and H.B. 1378  
Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director, United Public Workers**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno, and members of the House Committee on Health, I want to thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bills 843, 965 and 1378.

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW). The UPW supports House Bills 843, 965 and 1378 relating to Kahuku Hospital. These bills provide for Kahuku Hospital to be assimilated into the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC).

The UPW is the exclusive representative of 34 bargaining unit employees at Kahuku Hospital. UPW members are the employees that provide Kahuku Hospital's core services in the business office, food services, housekeeping, and nursing departments.

With its pending bankruptcy, there is no doubt that Kahuku Hospital will end its medical services if HHSC does not acquire the hospital. House Bills 843, 965 and 1378 recognize that the closure of Kahuku Hospital would pose a grave threat to the health and safety to the residents of the north shore communities.

However, more importantly, the passage of House Bills 843, 965 and 1378 provide for the continuation of community based emergency care, general acute care, surgery, skilled nursing, ancillary care, and health education for 27,000 residents of the north shore of Oahu from Kualoa to Waimea Bay.

Accessibility to health care is vital to all of us, especially for those that live in rural communities. House Bills 843, 965 and 1378 are the only hope for the survival of Kahuku Hospital and the continuation of essential medical services for residents of the north shore of Oahu.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation and your commitment to help save Kahuku Hospital.