



**Senate Committee on Health  
Monday, March 19, 2007, 1:30 p.m.**

**Testimony in Support of H.B. 843 HD2  
Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director, United Public Workers**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, I want to thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 843 HD2.

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW). The UPW supports House Bill 843 HD2 relating to Kahuku Hospital. This bill provides 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 Bill 843 HD2 recognizes 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 Bill 843 HD2 provides 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 Bill 843 HD2 is 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.