

Christian Science Committee on Publication – Hawaii

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Testimony for Health Care Task Force: Tuesday, April 4, 2006 **Presented by Nancy Walden**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for making the Draft of the Lewin report available on the internet for public comment.

However, contrary to a decision made at the February 7th meeting of the Task Force, I noticed that it fails to include complementary or alternative systems of health care. We have brought to your attention in previous testimony the statistics compiled by the National Institutes of Health concerning the ever increasing use of CAMs in the United States, including spiritual healing through prayer.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have an extraordinary opportunity here to break out of the allopathic box and present a health care package which reflects the direction so many people in Hawaii have turned and continue to do so in increasing numbers. They want health care options in addition to and other than drugs and surgery. Local and national statistics show this is true.

To proceed with a single payer health care system for *all* Hawaii's citizens, which you have so nobly taken on and yet does not include Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAMs), is not meeting the needs and desires for all Hawaii's people. And as you know, most CAMs are at lower cost than medical treatment. In addition, those who do not wish medical treatment, will not only have to pay outright for the treatment of their choice, but also pay for everybody else's medical treatment.

According to a study by the John Templeton Foundation, "55% of Americans say they would choose a health plan that included spirituality and religious healing practices."

I am asking you to look to the many health care alternatives that are being used in our Hawaii. Since you are taking on the worthy cause to provide the means for *all* Hawaii citizens to be covered by a health care insurance program, those in Hawaii who do not or do not wish to use allopathic medical care – will be left out of the program. And what is most unfortunate, those individuals who would be left out of the program will, nevertheless, be paying for the cost of it.

Thank you in advance for taking this opportunity to include the use of these alternatives including the various forms of spiritual healing, in your report to the legislature.

And thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on this important matter.