

December 13, 2005

Act 223

*Hawaii State Healthcare Task Force-Insurance Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii*

***TESTIMONY FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PERMANENT
HOUSING OF ALL TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) SURVIVORS
FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII ON ALL ISLANDS***

Mele Kalikimaka e Hauole Makahiki Hou e Aloha Nui Ou Ka Kou to the Very Most Honorable Representative Dr. Josh Green, MD, Chair and the very most Honorable Senators and House of Representatives as Committee members of the Hawaii State Healthcare Task Force:

I, Hal Kahikina, is a Federal Hawaiian Living Severe Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor for seventeen (17) years, Board of Director for the Brain Injury Association of Hawaii (BIA-HI) Chairs of the Legislative, Service and Funding and Registry Committees of the Hawaii State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board (STBIAB).

What is traumatic brain injury (TBI)? As defined by CDC: "an occurrence of injury to the head (arising from blunt or penetrating trauma or from acceleration forces) that is associated with any of these symptoms or signs attributed to the injury--decreased level of COUSCIOUSNESS, AMNESIA, OTHER NEUROLOGIC OR NEURO-PYSCHOLOGIC LESIONS OR DEATH.

Many of our traumatic survivors whether MILD, MODERATE OR SEVERE, child, young adult, adult or elderly DID NOT ASK TO BECOME traumatically brain injured. We, INDEED, are faced with many challenges MEDICALLY, NEUROPSYCHOLOGICALLY, LEGALLY, OCCUPATIONALLY, EDUCATIONALLY AND INTEGRATION INTO THE NONE-BRAIN INJURED WORLD.

What is the clear issue is MY TESTIMONY of your exploring and favoring for realtors and other private funding sources (Weinberg Foundation) for INSURANCE coverage for traumatic brain injury survivors.

My exposure in counseling many TBI Survivors in the last eleven (11) years who reside on Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island of Hawaii

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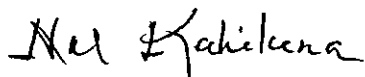
clearly reflect that after final rehabilitation, many survivors cannot find HOUSING that are capable of addressing their SPECIFIC DEFICITS. Many suffer from post-acute Brain Seizures, Muscle Spasticity, Upper and Lower extremely limited range of motion, speech impediments and without question COGNITIVE CHALLENGES which is essential to THOUGHT PROCESSING and explaining the kinds of SPECIFIC DEFICIT that challenge these survivors. EACH TBI SURVIVORS SPECIFIC DEFICITS ARE UNIQUE TO EACH INDIVIDUAL TBI SURVIVOR.

Currently, there is a "Housing Facility" established by the Weinberg Foundation for Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Survivors most of whom are quadraplegic. My nephew, at the age of 43, is a SCI for three years and lives in the Waipahu Weinberg Housing Facility. The benefits in this kind of care post-acute long-term is extraordinary for my nephew who is a "QUAD".

What I am requesting of the Hawaii Healthcare Task Force is INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR HOUSING/RESIDENTIAL facilities to become available on all islands to establish: Construction in the shower to assist TBI Survivors with Mobility Challenges, Assistance in the kitchen area, Accessibility to the residential facility for those who are on wheelchairs, on crutches or canes, to allow for survivors who are both TBI/SCI combined, ALLOW FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE NURSING HOMES WITHOUT WALLS to assist in Case Managers who will target, TBI Specific Deficits, assist in independent living, allow for shopping, and meet all other CHALLENGES of each individual TBI Survivors based on their individual specific deficits. The specific agencies listed above, again, should be the combined package for the residential facility which INSURANCE COVERAGE IS MANDATED.

Your compliance to the request to this established HOUSING/RESIDENTIAL NEED as a clear target for TBI Survivors on all islands of the State of Hawaii will be respected and gratefully received.

Mahalo Nui Ou Ka Kou,



Hal Kahikina

*Federal Hawai'ian Living Severe Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor
Brain Injury of Hawaii (BIA-HI) Board of Director
State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board (STBIAB)*

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TO: Hawaii Health Care Task Force (12/13/05)
FROM: Renee Ing, PNHP-Hawaii (Ph: 524-3332, POBox 23094, Hon96823, FAX 545-1989)

Good afternoon, Chair Green, Vice Chair Blanchette, and members of the Health Care Task Force. Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Hawaii chapter of PNHP. PNHP-Hawaii is very glad that the Task Force is in the process of contracting for a feasibility analysis, and is confident the Lewin Group's work will be helpful to your study.

There appears to be \$10,000 remaining in your budget available for consultants, and since the Task Force is amenable to a video conference with other consultants, PNHP-Hawaii would like to recommend you also arrange a video conference with **DR. JAMES KAHN**.

Dr. Kahn is an expert on health finance, and his expertise in conjunction with the Lewin Group's findings would be very helpful to our understanding of health care finance for Hawaii.

Dr. James G. Kahn, MD, MPH, is "an Associate Professor of Health Policy and Epidemiology in the Institute for Health Policy Studies and the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UCSF. He is an expert in cost-effectiveness analysis in health. He directs the UCSF medical school course on decision and cost-effectiveness analysis in medicine."

"Dr. Kahn is an epidemiologist and health services researcher. Dr. Kahn focuses on policy modeling in health care, cost-effectiveness analysis, and evidence-based medicine. He has developed computer models to assess the health and economic outcomes of HIV prevention and care (including the effects of expanded health insurance). He also assesses strategies for family planning and sexually transmitted disease control, as well as other medical interventions" and developed "a model of the California health care system to assess the impact of universal health reform proposals."

Dr. Kahn is available for a video conference on **Thursday, January 12, 2006**, after he finishes his class at **4:45pm (Hawaii time)**, and would be delighted to speak with you then, if you would care to arrange it.

Dr. Kahn's contact info are: <jgkahn@ucsf.edu>

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JIM BREWER TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ACT 223, 2005 HEALTH TASKFORCE
12-13-2005

Aloha Task Force Members,

My name is Jim Brewer testifying in favor of this task force recommending that Hawaii move to Single-Payer Universal Healthcare for all the reasons given in previous testimony.

If this TF is not so inclined, I recommend that you present outline draft recommendations to the Legislature of different options, including the single-payer system and the Uninsured Project's plan.

I thank you for the time that you spent on this effort. I hope that your efforts will lead to a real breakthrough in one of Hawaii's most important problems; which seems at the moment heading towards the same catastrophic problems playing out now with pension problems for employee families which too is caused by corporate greed prevailing over human need.

This problem calls for a solution like Canada's. It is above partisan politics. I hope that you agree.

Aloha, Jim Brewer
P.O. BOX 23403
Honolulu, HI 96823
(808) 545-1989

The bottom line is that Single-payer savings will enable Hawaii to cover everybody without spending one nickel more of taxpayer money. All other plans are cost shifting and will need additional taxpayer money into the pockets of the insurance company bureaucracy.
Jim Brewer