

A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

E-Mail to: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Regarding: Joint Senate Committee on HSP/HTH
Hearing on: February 5, 2007 @ 1:15 p.m.
Copies Necessary: 30 copies

HAWAII FAMILY FORUM BOARD

Francis Oda
President

Austin Imamura
Vice-President

Gill Berger
Secretary

Brogan, Mary Lou
D'Olier, H. Mitchell
Pace, Dr. Nancy
Papandrew, Tom
Paty, William
Pflueger, Nancy
Tsujiimura, R. Brian
Young, Sandra

HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE BOARD

Most Reverend Clarence Silva
Bishop of Honolulu

Alexander, Very Rev. Marc
Chung, Sr. Earnest
Coleman, David
Correa, Jerry
Downes, Patrick
Himenes, Dr. Carmen
Ignacio, Carol
Larson, Betty Lou
Rauckhorst, Jerome

Date: February 22, 2007

To: **Senate Committee on Human Services & Public Housing**
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senate Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

From: Kelly M. Rosati, JD
Executive Director, Hawaii Family Forum
Lobbyist, Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii

Re: **Support for SB 1918 Relating to the Hawaii's Children's Health Care Program**

Honorable Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services & Public Housing and the Senate Committee on Health, I am Kelly Rosati, **representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 230,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

Because of our collective commitment to Hawaii's children and families, we support SB 1918 relating to children's health care

This measure would create a three year pilot project to provide health insurance coverage to Hawaii's uninsured children. The project is a public-private collaboration and would benefit as many as 3,500 Hawaii children. Children and families without health insurance inevitably end up in Hawaii's emergency rooms often receiving non-emergency but necessary care in the most expensive setting.

We defer to the legislative and community experts regarding the details of the pilot project but offer our strongest support to the collaborative effort to provide health care access to Hawaii's uninsured children and families.

We urge your support for those collaborative efforts. Mahalo nui loa for your kind consideration.