

May 31, 2013

The Honorable Ernest Y. Martin
 Chair, Honolulu City Council
 Honolulu Hale
 530 S. King Street, Room 302
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RECEIVED
 CITY CLERK
 C & C OF HONOLULU
 2013 MAY 31 PM 1:05

Re: Operating Budget as Bill 11 (2013), CD2
 Relating to the City and County Budget
 The Wahiawa Center for Community Health

Dear Chair Martin and members of the Honolulu City Council:

EAH Housing is a non-profit developer and manager of affordable rental housing with operations in California and Hawaii. We focus on individuals, families and seniors whose income is at sixty percent (60%) or below of the area median income. In addition to providing housing we also coordinate with various social service agencies to provide supportive services to enable our residents to maintain and improve their lives.

We are in support of this Budget, particularly in regards to its support of those nonprofit organizations seeking to provide much-needed community services to the people of Oahu. Our support is specifically on behalf of the Wahiawa Center for Community Health (WCCH), a brand-new community-owned and locally managed not-for-profit health care agency with a mission to promote and provide accessible comprehensive individual and community health care to the people of Wahiawa, Central Oahu and the North Shore.

It is important to the community of Wahiawa and our residents that this health center receive funding assistance to provide the needed access to care, which is severely lacking in Wahiawa.

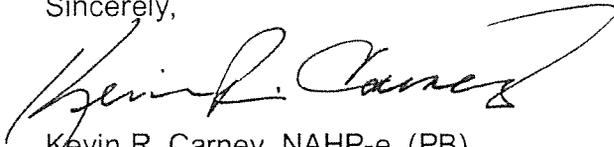
It should be noted that because community health centers such as WCCH are locally-owned and operated economic assets, they more often than not play a secondary but important role as economic engines for the low-income communities they serve. For although they operate on thin margins, community health centers are stable and resilient nonprofit businesses that develop and reinvest financial resources in their own communities. They are often one of the larger employers in their respective communities, and offer entry-level jobs and career paths to people who would otherwise have few job options.

A study by the Hawaii Primary Care Association estimated that a single community health center serving 1,200 patients with 12 employees can contribute approximately \$2 million annually to the local economy. Further, those numbers will increase again concurrently with the prospective increase in overall

agency capacity.

Please give the funding of the Wahiawa Center for Community Health your full support. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our strong support of this very important issue for the Wahiawa community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin R. Carney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kevin R. Carney, NAHP-e, (PB)
Vice President, Hawaii