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STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 12, 2009

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CHIEF CLERK  
CAROL TANIGUCHI

Via facsimile 808-587-0854

Mr. Ronald Terry, Administrator  
State Health Planning and Development Agency  
1177 Alakea Street, Room 402  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Certificate of Need application #08-07

Dear Mr. Terry:

I am writing in strong support of the certificate of need application #08-07 for the West Maui Hospital project proposed by the Newport Hospital Corporation. Your favorable consideration is requested to move this much needed healthcare facility forward.

West Maui is geographically isolated. Our two-lane highway is often congested and subject to closure due to weather or accident. This can mean medically unacceptable delays to access critical care in the event of a medical emergency.

In addition, the tsunami of aging baby boomers that is upon us means more long-term care beds are needed. There are currently none on the Westside. The plans for 40 beds on the West Maui Hospital campus would address this critical need and help alleviate waitlists elsewhere on Maui.

Again, I strongly support the West Maui Hospital project and ask that you approve the Newport Hospital Corporation's application for #08-07 certificate of need.

Sincerely yours,

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection  
5th District - South and West Maui