



Kula Community Association

P.O. Box 417
Kula, Hawaii 96790

***The vision of the Kula Community Association is to preserve open space, support agriculture, maintain a rural residential atmosphere, and to work together as a community.
The specific purpose of this association is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Kula, to promote civic welfare, and generally to benefit the community of Kula.***

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawai'i
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Release \$1 Million in GIA Funds for Molokai Community Health Center

February 2, 2011

Aloha-

My name is Bobbie Patnode and I am a Vice President of the Kula Community Association as well as the Health Issues Chair. Many of our Association and Board Members have ties to Molokai, and as we also live in a rural area, we understand and empathize with our Molokai neighbors' health care needs. I am writing to ask for the immediate release of \$1 million in GIA funds to the Molokai Community Health Center.

The health and wellness of our people translates into the wellness and balance of our communities and environments. This is why the Molokai Community Health Center (MCHC) is critical. It provides high quality, affordable primary, dental and behavioral health care to the island's most vulnerable populations, its working poor, indigent, underinsured and uninsured residents.

In 2009 the MCHC took on a community supported move to a bigger and better facility. The new facility would allow MCHC to better serve its 3,000 and growing patients, fully integrate its broad spectrum of services, maximize its partnerships with other organizations, and create additional employment and partnership opportunities on Moloka'i.

Renovations of the new facility began in July 2010 with the promise that the State would release a \$1 million Grant in Aid appropriated by the 2009 legislature. Former Governor Lingle, however, withheld these funds. The MCHC now finds itself midway through the renovation project without necessary funds for completion. The withholding of the GIA funds has also prevented the MCHC from accessing critical matching funding sources.

The continued withholding of the GIA funds will have huge negative repercussions to Molokai's small island community - from the halting of a hugely beneficial community project, to the loss of jobs, and the economic strain of a critical healthcare provider left with the overhead of operations as well as huge mortgage costs.

On the other hand, the positive impact that the immediate release of these GIA funds will have on Molokai are huge and far reaching. Please help create a "New Day" for Molokai and release the \$1 million in GIA funds to the MCHC.

Sincerely,

Bobbie Patnode
Vice President, Kula Community Association
16547 Haleakala Hwy.
Kula, HI 96790
808-876-0140
Email: bobbiepatnode@fastmail.fm