

From: [Jeracah Lawless](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] LAND DIVISION AGENDA ITEM D6: AMEND GENERAL LEASE NO. S-5976 Hospice of Hilo, Lessee
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 11:27:54 AM

Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson
State of Hawaii / Board of Land and Natural Resources / P.O. Box 621 / Honolulu, HI
96809

SUBJECT: LAND DIVISION AGENDA ITEM D6: AMEND GENERAL LEASE NO. S-5976 Hospice of Hilo, Lessee
Waiakea, South Hilo, Hawaii / Tax Map Key (3) 2-4-001:179
Land Board Meeting Date: February 9, 2024

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment of General Lease No. S-5976 to allow the Lessee, Hospice of Hilo, dba Hawai'i Care Choices (HiCare), to expand services offered on the premises leased at 590 Kapiolani Street, Hilo to include a Type II Adult Residential Care Home (ARCH).

As you are aware, our community is home to a diverse population, including many elderly individuals who may require specialized care and assistance. As our community continues to age and current home operators retire without any successor in place, the need for adult residential care homes will only continue to grow. Here are some key reasons why opening an adult residential care home would benefit our community:

- **Dignified Care for Seniors:** An adult residential care home would provide a dignified and supportive environment for our seniors who may need assistance with daily activities, such as bathing, dressing, and medication management. This would enable them to maintain a higher quality of life while aging gracefully.
- **Local Access to Care Services:** Currently, many seniors in our community have to travel significant distances to access appropriate care facilities. Establishing a care home would ensure that our aging residents can receive the necessary care and support without the added stress of long-distance travel.
- **Community Integration:** A care home in our community would promote social integration and a sense of belonging for its residents. This would foster a supportive environment where seniors can engage in meaningful activities and maintain connections with their families and the community.
- **Relief for Families:** Families often face challenges in caring for their aging loved ones at home. Having a local adult residential care home would provide a much-needed option for families seeking assistance in caring for their elderly members, offering respite and support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in SUPPORT of this measure.

Respectfully,

Jeracah Lawless
Member of the Hawaii Care Choices Advisory Council

February 7, 2024

ELECTRONIC MAIL

blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment of General Lease No. S-5976 to allow the Lessee, Hospice of Hilo, dba Hawai'i Care Choices (HiCare) to expand services offered on the premises leased at 590 Kapiolani Street, Hilo to include a Type II Adult Residential Care Home (ARCH).

There is a demand and need for more bed capacity on Hawaii Island as many care home operators are retiring and have no successor in place.

I have witnessed the outstanding care HiCare has provided to our community. HiCare has provided high quality, compassionate hospice care at Pohai Malama to many families in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in SUPPORT of this measure.

Respectfully,
Kerri Okamura, R.Ph.
Member of the Board/Advisory Council

February 7, 2024

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Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment of General Lease No. S-5976 to allow the Lessee, Hospice of Hilo, dba Hawai'i Care Choices (HiCare) to expand services offered on the premises leased at 590 Kapiolani Street, Hilo to include a Type II Adult Residential Care Home (ARCH).

State reason for your support: *Talking Point Examples:*

- Former/current caregiver for a senior who is physically infirm, have mental disabilities such as dementia
- Understands the value and need for short-term respite for caregivers and care home operators
- Was someone or knows someone who had to relocate a loved one from the Big Island to another county or state to a facility providing 24-hour living accommodations and assistance with personal care
- Recognizes the demand and need for more bed capacity as a great number of care home operators are retiring and have no successor in place
- Have first-hand experience of receiving quality compassionate hospice care at Pohai Malama – describe the care, environment, etc.
- Ensure the intent and purpose of this community asset is preserved for generations to come
- Other personal reason for supporting the amendment

Closing Suggestions:

- Thank you for your consideration and support of amending General Lease No. S-5976.
- Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in SUPPORT of this measure.

Respectfully,

Gail Uejo
Gail Uejo
Member of the Board/Advisory Council

Thomas Yeh
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Hilo, Hawaii 96720
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February 7, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
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Waiakea, South Hilo, Hawaii / Tax Map Key (3) 2-4-001:179
Land Board Meeting Date: February 9, 2024**

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the (a) proposed amendment of General Lease No. S-5976 to allow the Lessee, Hospice of Hilo, dba Hawai'i Care Choices (HiCare) to expand services offered on the premises leased at 590 Kapiolani Street, Hilo, to include a Type II Adult Residential Care Home (ARCH), and (b) for the District Land Agent's recommendation to amend Paragraph C of the lease to allow for the lease to utilize the prevailing Minimum Rent Policy for eleemosynary organizations.

I am currently serving as a member of the HiCare board of directors, and during my tenure, have been greatly impressed by the services being offered by HiCare, which go beyond the initial purpose of providing hospice care. HiCare now provides palliative care for persons requiring specialized medical care and who have serious illnesses, bereavement for surviving family members, as well as hospice care to patients in home and other settings. The HiCare leadership team is a devoted body of well qualified and devoted personnel who believe in HiCare's mission of providing compassionate care.

The current Pohai Malama facility (site plan of facility and rooms attached) represents a substantial investment in creating a place that has all the amenities required for both hospice patients and ARCH patients. Over the years, it became evident that the vast majority of hospice patients preferred to receive such care in the comfort of a home setting. As such, the Pohai facility was not being utilized to the extent of its capacity. In order to make better use of the

facility, after much thought and conducting a feasibility study, the decision was made to seek approval from the Department of Health to obtain approval to operate a Type II ARCH (6 or more residents) facility at Pohai, as well as the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The demographics for the East Hawaii and larger Hawaii Island community provides HiCare with confidence that the Pohai facility will be successful on this planned use. HiCare has already received favorable feedback from families who want to use the facility for this purpose and there are currently no licensed ARCH II facilities on the island.

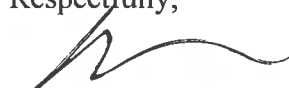
With the Pohai facility and planned staffing, as an adjunct to providing the ARCH services, HiCare will also be able to provide daily activities, palliative care, memory care and continue to provide hospice residents whose needs transition to that level, services that current ARCH I facilities (5 or less residents, usually in a home setting) are not capable of providing.

I have no doubt that residents and patients at the Pohai facility will receive compassionate and quality care consistent with HiCare's mission, which I have observed for family members and friends in the past.

Finally, HiCare is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization which qualifies for status as an eleemosynary organization and the Board's Minimum rent policy for such organizations. We greatly appreciate the Board's approval of the proposal to amend Paragraph C to allow for this, as this amendment will allow HiCare to plan to devote its resources to provide quality care to the island in a sustainable way.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony and for your consideration of this request. Your approval will allow HiCare to serve the community at the Pohai facility to a fuller extent and to maintain all of its operations in a financially sustainable way.

Respectfully,

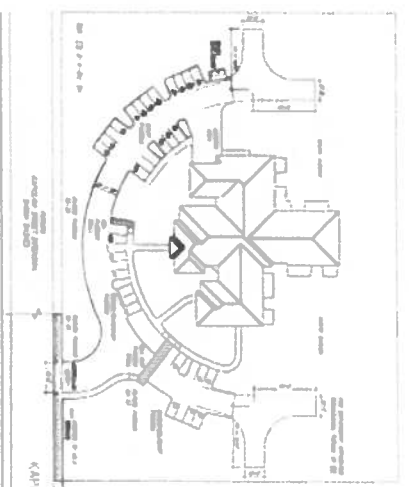
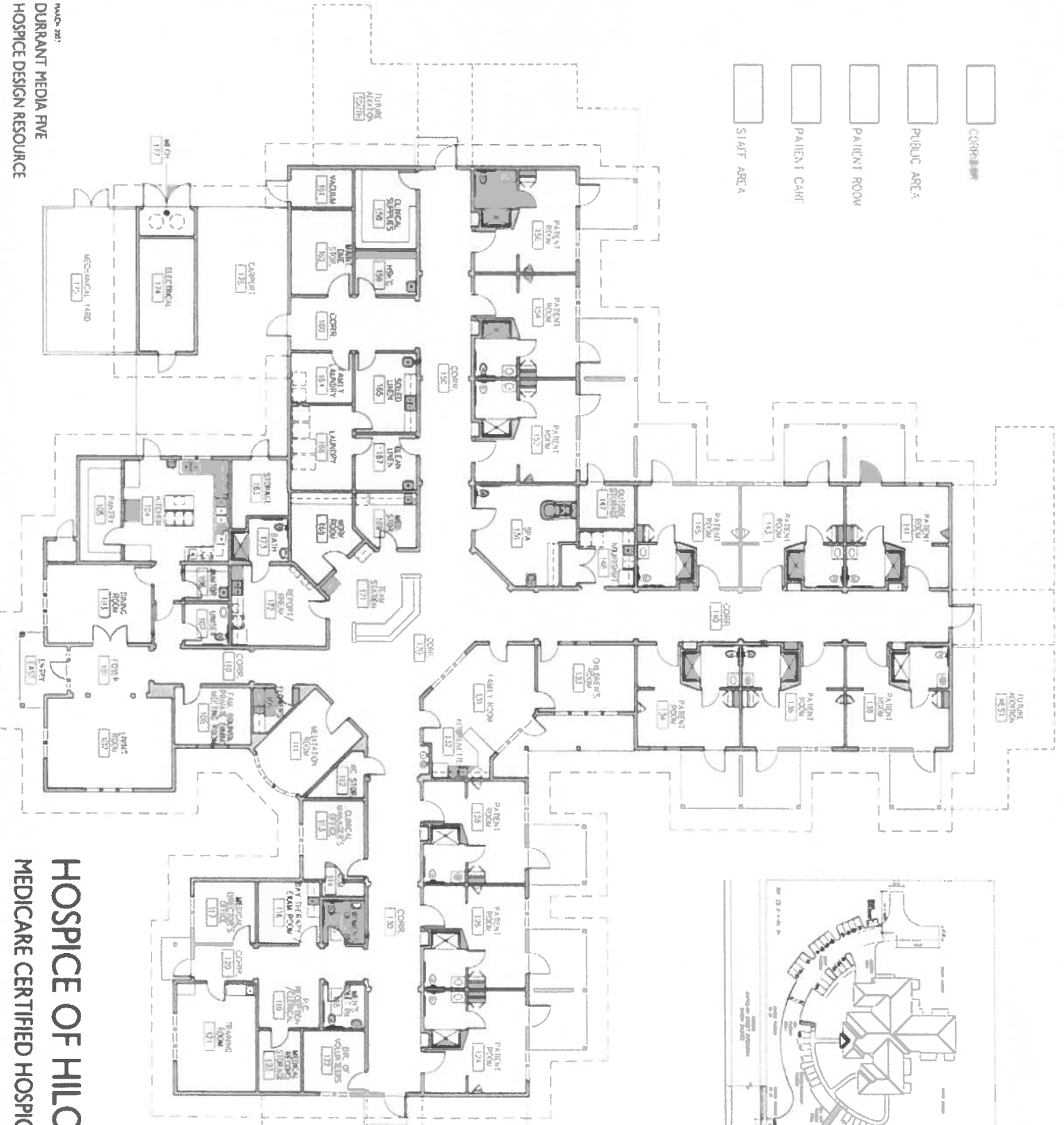


Thomas Yeh

Member of the Board of Hospice of Hilo (dba Hawaii Care Choices)

Encl.

- CORRIDOR
- PUBLIC AREA
- PATIENT ROOM
- PATIENT CARE
- STAFF AREA



SITE PLAN

FLOOR PLAN

HOSPICE OF HILO

MEDICARE CERTIFIED HOSPICE INPATIENT FACILITY