



**LOCAL NEWS**

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## **Health Task Force Members Named**

WAILUKU – Mayor Charmaine Tavares has appointed seven members to the Maui Health Initiative Task Force, a group established by law to draft a comprehensive, strategic health plan for the county.

“There is no doubt that we have a health care crisis in Maui County and throughout the state,” Tavares said. “It’s clear that we need to continue upgrading our medical facilities and services. I’m counting on this task force to be a catalyst for improvements throughout the health care system.”

Coming from separate geographic regions, the mayor’s appointees are:

- Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli (Molokai), who serves as medical director of external affairs at Molokai General Hospital.
- Rita Barreras (East Maui), a Huelo resident who works as project director for the Maui Long Term Care Partnership.
- Gina Flammer (Upcountry), vice president of the Kula Community Association and chairwoman of its Health and Safety Committee.
- May Fujiwara (West Maui), the West Maui regional representative of the Maui Long Term Care Partnership and a member of the Maui County Fire and Public Safety Commission.
- Hermine Harman (South Maui), a Kihei resident and co-chairwoman of People United to Support Superior Healthcare.
- Alan Lee (Central Maui), a former administrator of Maui Memorial Medical Center and Kula Hospital.

- Phyllis McOmber (Lanai), a retired educator and former director of the Lanai Rural Redevelopment Project through Maui Community College and the U.S. Department of Labor.

The president of the state Senate and speaker of the House appoint four members each to the 15-member panel.

According to Senate President Colleen Hanabusa's office, her appointees are:

- Dr. Betsy Schusser, a Lahaina family practice physician.
- Catherine Nobriga-Kim, vice president of Roselani Ice Cream and former member of the board of Maui Memorial Medical Center Foundation.
- Jeanne Skog, president and chief executive officer of the Maui Economic Development Board.

- Tony Krieg, chief executive officer of Hale Makua.

An official with House Speaker Calvin Say's office said the speaker's appointees were:

- Norm Bezane, co-owner of Maui Communicators, a Lahaina-based public relations firm working for the West Maui Improvement Foundation, a group aimed at establishing an acute-, emergency-care hospital in West Maui.

- Jan Yagi Buen, a former Maui state senator.

- Frederick Langille, a Paia resident and former state planning director in Colorado.

A fourth appointee from the speaker was pending.

The task force will determine the county's current and future health care needs, develop an integrated plan for health care (including primary, acute and long-term care, and urgent and emergency care and disaster preparedness) and determine an appropriate role for Maui County in supporting health care services within the statewide system of emergency and trauma care.

The group will prepare a final report and any proposed legislation and submit it to the Legislature, the mayor and the State Health Planning and Development Agency no later than 20 days before the opening of the 2008 legislative session.