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Dear Editor:

I found Ali Bairos's commentary ("Unions are main reason state hospitals are broke," April 10, 2013) to be deeply insulting and regrettable.

Having been extensively involved in healthcare issues over the past 20 years, including serving as a member of the task force to create the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I'm aware of the challenges and complexities of addressing Hawaii's healthcare needs.

Dr. Bairos should rest assured that key community stakeholders – including leaders from local healthcare systems, health insurance providers, government and unions – have been meeting and are already working together to come up with a viable solution to address the sustainability of quality health care for our rural communities.

If Dr. Bairos is truly concerned about Hawaii's health care, he should approach the issue with an open mind and willingness to collaborate. Blaming the unions for HHSC's financial woes is not only wrong, but counterproductive.

Sincerely,

Randy Perreira  
*Executive Director*  
*HGEA/AFSCME Local 152*