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Health Hearing on HCR 138
Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 10:55am
Conference Room 329

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

SUPPORT FOR HCR 138

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Members:

My name is Jana Lindsey, and I respectfully appeal for your support of HCR 138 requesting the formation of a Task Force to review Telemedicine in Hawaii. I am testifying as an individual with the experience and knowledge of both managed care, public health, and the issues/capabilities of Telemedicine at the state and national level and not as a representative of my employment.

I'm a registered nurse certified in managed care and enrolled in the MBA Health Administration program from Loma Linda School of Public Health. I am currently employed as the Telemedicine Coordinator at Shriners Hospitals for Children, Honolulu in which I've developed and managed the program since its inception in 1998. I have coordinated the evaluation and management of nearly 100 patients a year by Telemedicine, and have witnessed the benefits and effectiveness of delivering health care to rural areas by Telemedicine.

During my eight (8) year involvement with Telemedicine, I've found that the most difficult barriers are due to human factors and the disconnection of systems. Telehealth is multi-faceted involving a variety of stakeholders. Many of these challenges are common to all of us, but working in silos has led to a duplication of effort and inefficient use and/or waste of resources and manpower. The challenges of integration over a local, state, and national level could only be efficiently addressed as a coordinated effort. Therefore, I passionately support the formation of a Telehealth Task Force to work collaboratively with the stakeholders. I give my support to the testimony submitted by Dr. Deborah Birkmire-Peters to obtain the Health Committee's support of HCR 138 with the proposed changes of:

- 1) Moving the supporting institution from the Department of Health to the Telehealth Research Institute (TRI)
- 2) Including a member of the steering committee of the Telehealth Collaborative on the task force
- 3) Broadening the scope of the task force to include the five recommended areas of focus identified by the participants of the November 2007 Telehealth Symposium.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony and for your consideration to support and pass House Concurrent Resolution 138 with the proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Jana Lindsey, RN, BSN, CMC, c-MBA

LATE TESTIMONY

HAWAII PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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To: Rep. Josh Green, MD, Chair
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Health Committee

*HLT Hearing
3/19/08 at 10:55
am
Conf. Rm 329*

From: Wm Sheehan, MD, President
Steven Williams, MD, Legislative Chair

Re: HCR 138/HR119
REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE
POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT PRACTICES AND
EQUIPMENT OF HAWAII'S TLEMEDICINE SYSTEM.

POSITION: SUPPORT with AMENDMENT

The Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association submits its testimony in support of HCR138/HR119.

The Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association (HPMA) established the Psychiatric Access Collaboration almost two years ago to move forward solutions to improve access to psychiatric services. The rural health initiatives include telehealth as an important piece.

In partnership with DHS, DOH and the University of Hawaii School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry (DOP), the rural health initiative has been successfully operating in the Maui Community Health Center, Molokai General Outpatient Clinic, and Lanai Community Mental Health Center. DHS again partnered with the Department of Psychiatry to conduct a feasibility study on the Island of Hawaii. That study is completed and steps are being taken to move forward to establish full-time rural health telepsychiatry with the Bay Clinic. The work accomplished by the DOP to establish the current and expanding rural health initiatives has been tremendous in the coordination of systems, billing and participation.

HPMA recommends the resolution be amended to expand taskforce participation to include representation by the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association/Psychiatric Access Collaboration, a member of the Department of Psychiatry Rural Health Initiative, and the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for your consideration to pass this measure.

HAWAII PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health
March 19, 2008, 10:55 a.m.

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
and
Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean, John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 138/HR 119, Requesting the formation of a task force to review the potential expansion of the current practices and equipment of Hawaii's telemedicine system.

Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno, and Members of the Committee:

We support HCR 138/HR 119 as the proposed legislation serves to address a critical growing shortage of available healthcare resources throughout the State of Hawai'i. Telemedicine and Telehealth solutions offer the potential to leverage scarce healthcare resources across geographic and other boundaries which limit access to care for citizens of Hawai'i. This legislation will help build the alliances necessary for effective use of Telemedicine solutions for the mandated imperative to improve access to care in our State.

Currently, the Department of Health is requested to form a task force to explore the feasibility of further implementation of the telemedicine system for the benefit of the citizens of our state. We request that HCR 138 and HR 119 be amended to have the Telehealth Research Institute (TRI) of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) be the supporting institution to form such a task force.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the John A. Burns School of Medicine are uniquely positioned to spearhead this effort to convene a task force that will inform the legislature regarding opportunities, strategies, barriers, and recommendations for Telemedicine. The Telehealth Research Institute at JABSOM has the necessary expertise, mission, and experience to execute the mandate of this legislation. The University will enhance its ability to fulfill its commitment to improving health and meeting health care needs for the citizens of Hawai'i. We are encouraged by the trust and opportunity for JABSOM that our neighbor island communities are expressing in this proposal.

A consortium of stakeholders interested in the future of telehealth in the State of Hawai'i have proposed the following changes to HCR 138/ HR 119:

1. Moving the supporting institution from the Department of Health to the Telehealth Research Institute (TRI), John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. We are

interested in doing this for two reasons. The proposed amendments would be in keeping with the mission of the Telehealth Research Institute and JABSOM to provide outreach to the community and State of Hawai'i. Also, the Telehealth Research Institute, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Manoa has been spearheading a state-wide collaborative on telehealth since July 2007, as evidenced by the successful Symposium last November. For more on the collaborative and the symposium, please visit the website: <http://www.hawaiihealth.net/>

2. Including a member of the steering committee of the Telehealth Collaborative on the task force. We are recommending this change as the committee is well informed not only on issues of telehealth policy but also on telehealth projects statewide, as well issues with and changes to the underlying hardware currently available.

3. Broadening the scope of the task force to include the following five recommended areas of focus for telehealth in the State of Hawaii as identified by the participants of the November Telehealth Symposium:

- *Business Model*
- *Reimbursement and Funding*
- *Coordination and Collaboration*
- *Added Value and Incentives*
- *Political Will and Institutional Leadership*

We are recommending this change because the Telehealth Collaborative feels that, although the originally stated areas of focus for the task force are important, the five additional areas are equally as important.

The stakeholders interested in the future of telehealth in Hawai'i include members from the following institutions:

Telehealth Research Institute, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Telecommunications & Information Policy Group, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
The Queen's Medical Center
Hawaii Pacific Health
The Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative
Hawaii Medical Service Association
Hilo Medical Center
Hawaii Department of Health
Shriners Hospitals for Children

Specific recommended amendments as detailed above follow in bold italicized type: