

# HCR138

# HD2

Measure Title:

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S TELEHEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO FORM A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT PRACTICES AND EQUIPMENT OF HAWAII'S TELEMEDICINE SYSTEM.

Report Title:

Health; Telemedicine

Description:

Package:

None

Companion:

HR119

Introducer(s):

EVANS

Current Referral:

HTH/EDU



**Hawai'i Primary Care Association**

345 Queen Street, Suite 601 Honolulu, HI 96813

Tel (808) 536-8442 Fax (808) 524-0347

To: **Senate Committee on Health**  
The Hon. David Ige, Chair  
The Hon. Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Education**  
The Hon. Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
The Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of HCR 138**  
**Requesting the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine's**  
**Telehealth Research Institute to form a task force to review the potential**  
**expansion of the current practices and equipment of Hawaii's telemedicine**  
**system**

**Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO**  
**April 18, 2008 1:15 a.m., Room 016**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association supports this resolution. Telehealth technologies have a great deal of potential to help address the maldistribution of health care resources and geographic challenges of our island state. While various institutions have laid the groundwork for telemedicine, we have yet to effectively develop a provider network and the financial support to make telemedicine a reliable delivery system. Equally important is work that still needs to be done to enlist patients and clinicians to ensure that a telemedicine system is used.

We would bring to your attention that our vital statewide network of Community Health Centers is equipped with telehealth equipment supported by the Hawaii Primary Care Association. This represents great potential capacity to serve the underserved when a viable telemedicine system is finally developed. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this measure.

Testimony of  
Phyllis Dendle  
Director of Government Affairs

Before:  
Senate Committee on Health  
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education  
The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

April 18, 2008  
1:15 pm  
Conference Room 016

**HCR 138 HD2      REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A BURNS  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S TELEHEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO FORM A TASK  
FORCE TO REVIEW THE POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT PRACTICES AND  
EQUIPMENT OF HAWAII TELEMEDICINE SYSTEM**

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 138 HD2 which requests JABSOM to create a task force to study issues related to telehealth.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this request.**

**We respectfully request to be added to the membership of this task force.**

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii has been a pioneer in the use of telemedicine. The physicians of the Hawaii Permanente Medical group sought out ways to use this technology when it was in its earliest stages.

We continue to develop our telehealth processes so we may provide better service to all of our members regardless of their physical location. Because of our uniquely integrated health care system we believe we bring a different perspective to the continued development in telehealth. For this reason we request to be named as a member of this task force.

Thank you for your consideration.

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# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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### **Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health and Senate Committee on Education**

April 18, 2008 at 1:15 p.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, HD2 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S TELEHEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO FORM A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT PRACTICES AND EQUIPMENT OF HAWAII'S TELEMEDICINE SYSTEM.**

Chair Ige, Chair Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees:

We support HCR 138, HD2 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 this imperative to improve access to care in our State.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) 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 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 concurrent resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

# Hawaii Pacific Health

55 Merchant Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • hawaiiipacifichealth.org

Friday, April 18, 2008 – 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

## **The Senate Committee on Health**

To: The Honorable Senator David K. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

## **The Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing**

To: The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

## **The Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing**

To: The Honorable Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair  
The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

## **The Senate Committee on Education**

To: The Honorable Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA  
Executive Vice President

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HCR 138 HD2  
Requesting the formation of a Task Force to review Telemedicine in Hawaii**

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Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Members:

My name is Virginia Pressler, Senior Vice President for Hawaii Pacific Health. For more than a century, families in Hawaii and the Pacific Region have relied on the hospitals, clinics, physicians and staff of Hawaii Pacific Health as trusted healthcare providers. Through Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH), Hawaii's leading hospitals and clinics – Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital, Wilcox Memorial Hospital and Kauai Medical Clinic – focus on delivering the highest quality, most accessible and most affordable care and services. Our non-profit integrated healthcare system is the state's largest healthcare provider and is committed to improving the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, 18 outpatient centers and a team of 1,100 physicians on the islands of Oahu, Kauai and Lanai.

**We are writing in Strong Support of HCR 138 HD2.** HPH has been an early adopter and strong supporter of Telemedicine since 1998 to increase access to specialty medical care from rural areas of Hawaii and currently is providing Telemedicine services. However, there remain significant, non-technology related issues that are slowing the wider adoption of Telemedicine here in Hawaii. These include lack of full reimbursement for medical services provided via telemedicine from Medicare/Medicaid as well as private medical insurance and lack of clarity about Malpractice Insurance coverage for medical care provided via telemedicine.

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KAPI'OLANI  
MEDICAL CENTER  
AT PALI MOMI



KAPI'OLANI  
MEDICAL CENTER  
FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN



**Straub**  
CLINIC & HOSPITAL



*Wilcox Health*

# Hawaii Pacific Health

55 Merchant Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • [hawaiipacifichealth.org](http://hawaiipacifichealth.org)

The formation of this task force will help to identify and resolve roadblocks to broader adoption of Telemedicine in Hawaii. A grassroots effort called the Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative was formed on November 15, 2007 to address these same issues. An all day symposium was held on that day to identify key issues and areas to focus on to advance Telemedicine in Hawaii. The Hawaii task force being proposed by HCR 138 would give even more momentum and leverage to addressing these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Strong Support of House Concurrent Resolution 138 HD2.

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**KAPIOLANI**  
MEDICAL CENTER  
AT PALI MOMI



**KAPIOLANI**  
MEDICAL CENTER  
FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN



**Straub**  
CLINIC & HOSPITAL



*Wilcox Health*



**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
C O R P O R A T I O N

*"Touching Lives Every Day"*

Written Testimony

**THE SENATE**

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
**Senator David Y. Ige, Chair**  
**Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair**

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair**  
**Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair**

April 18, 2008, 1:15 PM  
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting HCR 138 HD2 Requesting The University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine's Telehealth Research Institute To Form A Task Force To Review The Potential Expansion Of The Current Practices And Equipment Of Hawaii's Telemedicine System

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer, HHSC

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HCR 138 HD2 requesting that the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine's Telehealth Research Institute form a task force to explore the feasibility of further implementation of the telemedicine systems so that citizens of Hawaii may benefit from it.

The Hawaii healthcare environment is challenged by many issues that have an impact on accessibility and availability to quality healthcare in communities across the state. HHSC is a state authorized public health system of safety-net facilities in five regions located on Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Lanai and Oahu providing acute, long-term care and rural healthcare in small rural communities, and recognizes an important role for telemedicine in bringing better access, quality healthcare, and to enhance quality of life for patients and healthcare professionals.

Inclusion of the President and Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation or the President and Chief Executive Officer's designee on the Task Force is certainly appreciated (please note a correction in the position title of President and Chief Executive Officer rather than Chief Operating Officer). HHSC would be pleased to participate in a Task Force to review the potential expansion of the current practices and equipment of Hawaii's telemedicine system. Thank you.

3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-4020 • FAX: (808) 733-4028

Jana Lindsey, RN, BSN, CMC, c-MBA  
45-543 Kuuipo Place, Kaneohe, HI 96744  
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Hearing on HCR138 HD2  
Friday, April 18, 2008 at 1:15pm  
Conference Room 016

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

**SUPPORT FOR HCR 138 HD2**

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Members:

My name is Jana Lindsey, and I respectfully appeal for your support of HCR138 HD2 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 the system. 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony and for your consideration to support and pass HCR 138 HD2.

Sincerely,

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



April 15, 2008

**Hearing on Friday, April 18, 2008 at 1:15 pm**

To:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair

Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Re: HCR 138, HD 2

Requesting the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine's Telehealth Research Institute to form a task force to review the potential expansion of the current practices and equipment of Hawaii's telemedicine system.

From: Cecilia Mukai, APRN, FNP-BC, Associate Professor at UH Hilo

I wish to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 138, HD 2.

This bill will support efforts underway to assist the current healthcare system to provide better care to Hawaii's citizens. As the cost of health care increases astronomically in response to the increased health needs of the population, healthcare providers must seek more efficient ways of providing services.

Telemedicine is poised to become the standard of practice in the near future as a means to distribute care, particularly to disparate populations who are marginalized by their personal biases, restricted by limited access, or hindered by financial restrictions. Telemedicine can span across cultural, geographical, and financial barriers. While it is not perfect by any means, it has the great potential to treat many of the chronic diseases that burden the general population with care that can be accessed anytime and anywhere, with unlimited resources. Investigation of telemedicine's potential with expansion of practices and equipment is an important first step.

Please pass HB 138, HD 2 so that work can commence to improve the way we do things in telemedicine and create a better health care network to serve Hawaii's people.

**testimony**

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**From:** Peter Durkson [duroy@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2008 8:18 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** HCR 138/HR 119 Testimony for Friday, April 18, 2008 at 1:15pm in Conference room 016

**To: House Committee on Health**  
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Chair  
The Hon. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

**Re: 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. ( HCR 138/HR 119 Testimony for Friday, April 18, 2008 at 1:15pm in Conference room 016 )**

The Maui County Council on Aging supports this resolution. Telehealth technologies can help Hawaii's aging population. There are national projects which have demonstrated that connecting healthcare providers with their patients at home utilizing various digital home telehealth devices and systems can help reduce disease management costs while enabling individuals to age in place with better health and wellness.

We believe that increasing the public's awareness of home telehealth devices and systems as well as increasing financial incentives for health providers who prescribe their use will greatly enhance the well being of our rapidly aging population on Maui and elsewhere in Hawaii.

We would request one very important change to the resolution to ask that a member of the Maui Council on Aging be included on the task force.

Maui's age wave demographics, remote areas, and proximity to Maui Community College's: Center of Excellence on Aging, IBM Super Computer, Long distance teleconferencing experience, and participation in the Sandwich Islands Communications statewide telecommunications network for Hawaiian Homestead Communities statewide, gives us a valuable perspective on the role that telemedicine could and should play in serving the urgent aging in place needs of Hawaii residents.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HCR138/ HR 119.

Sincerely,

Peter Durkson  
Chairman  
Maui County Council on Aging  
808-250-2216

Lorna Nekoba  
1190 Waiianuenue Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720

Joint Senate Health and Education Committee Hearing  
Friday, April 18, 2008  
1:15 PM  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Committee on Health

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Measure Title:

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S TELEHEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO FORM A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT PRACTICES AND EQUIPMENT OF HAWAII'S TELEMEDICINE SYSTEM.

**SUPPORT**

I respectfully ask for your support of HCR 138, HD2 to potentially expand telemedicine applications in Hawaii. Broader support for implementing and sustaining telemedicine programs is needed especially on the island of Hawaii where the shortage of primary care physicians and specialists has reached a crisis. Further, with transportation fuel costs on the rise there is a compelling need, now more than ever, to utilize technological advances that afford efficient and cost effective systems of healthcare delivery.

Among other telemedicine applications at Hilo Medical Center, a newborn in the hospital's nursery can now be seen by specialists at Kapiolani Medical Center through two-way video conferencing. In addition to video conferencing access, pediatric cardiologists can also examine radiographic images and echocardiograms of newborns, in real-time, to assist Hilo physicians with timely patient care decisions, in some cases avoiding unnecessary air ambulance transport off island.

Support from the State Legislature, the John A. Burns School of Medicine and other healthcare institutions will promote telemedicine as a viable alternative to the customary in person physician office visit and foster a paradigm shift in Hawaii's healthcare marketplace. Thank you for your favorable consideration in passing HCR 138, HD2.