

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 699

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 5, 2009

RE: H.B. No. 808

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and
Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 808 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to improve access to health care
by:

- (1) Clarifying a physician's scope of practice in the
provision of telehealth services;
- (2) Establishing requirements and standards for telemedicine
services, including for treatment recommendations and
medical reports; and
- (3) Prohibiting the practice of telemedicine in Hawaii
without a license to practice medicine in Hawaii.

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), the
Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Hawaii Medical Service Association,
and MDX Hawaii testified in support of this bill. DCCA's
Regulated Industries Complaints Office, the Hawaii Medical Board,
Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative, and Hawaii Medical Association
provided comments.

Hawaii's unique geographic location necessitates the use of
new ideas and technologies to overcome barriers to medical care,
particularly for rural areas where access to care is especially

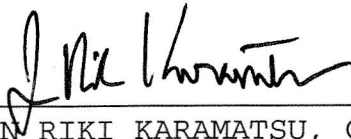
HB808 HSCR CPC-JUD HMS 2009-2470



difficult. Telemedicine allows physicians to treat patients through the use of telecommunications, providing a cost-effective and convenient alternative for the provision of health care in certain circumstances. This bill supports the use of telemedicine as a means of addressing the shortage of physicians in Hawaii and improving access to health services in general.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Judiciary that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 808 and recommend that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Consumer
Protection & Commerce and
Judiciary,



JON RIKI KARAMATSU, Chair



ROBERT N. HERKES, Chair



