



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

"Touching Lives Every Day"

**The House Committee on Health
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair**

Friday, March 27, 2009
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony in Support of HCR 148/HR 119 Urging A State-Led Coordinated Effort
By The Health Care And Technology Communities To Ensure That Hawaii Is Able
To Rapidly Respond To And Qualify For Grant Money Offered In The American
Recovery And Reinvestment Act Of 2009 For Health Care Information Exchange
Technology**

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporation Board of Directors, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 148 and HR119

HHSC supports and would be pleased to work jointly in a coordinated effort of State leadership and community health and technology stakeholders to ensure that Hawaii is able to rapidly respond to and qualify for grant money offered in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for health care information exchange technology. This concerted effort presents a significant opportunity to advance health care technology that would benefit patients, providers and insurers throughout the state of Hawaii.

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HMSA



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March 27, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

Re: HR 119 & HCR 148 – Urging a State-Led Coordinated Effort by the Health Care and Technology Communities to Ensure that Hawaii is able to Rapidly Respond to and Qualify for Grant Money Offered in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for Health Care Information Exchange Technology

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in strong support of HR 119 and HCR 148.

As you are aware, Hawaii is on its way to becoming a national leader in the field of health care technology. Earlier this year, HMSA launched its Online Care program, aimed at improving access to care throughout the Islands. Residents can speak with a local physician from HMSA's network of credentialed participating physicians 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week. In conjunction with this project HMSA is talking with other community entities to examine how an initiative such as an HIE could be developed in Hawaii.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) contains language encouraging the increased use of health information technology (HIT) through the awarding of grant monies to states. We believe, as stated in the resolutions before you today, that the best option to obtain funding under the ARRA is through a public-private partnership between all interested health care stakeholders to build a statewide network. This public-private partnership would ideally consist of the Legislature and the appropriate state agency which would be responsible for designating an entity as a "state designated entity" as required under ARRA. This would allow for rapid response and action. HR 119 and HCR 148 reiterate this structure and support mobilizing efforts already taking place in the community so that Hawaii can be one of the first states to qualify to receive funding.

We are excited by the opportunities presented by the ARRA funding for Hawaii and appreciate the support for the resolutions before you today. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations

Testimony of
Phyllis Dendle
Director of Government Relations

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

March 27, 2009
10:00 am
Conference Room 329

Re: HCR 148 URGING A STATE-LED COORDINATED EFFORT BY THE HEALTH CARE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE THAT HAWAII IS ABLE TO RAPIDLY RESPOND TO AND QUALIFY FOR GRANT MONEY OFFERED IN THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 FOR HEALTH CARE INFORMATION EXCHANGE TECHNOLOGY.

Chair Yamane and committee members thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 148 which requests the relevant state departments to work jointly in coordinating stakeholders in the health care community and technology community to ensure Hawaii's rapid response to ARRA funding.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this resolution

As you may know Kaiser Permanente has invested several billion dollars in recent years to implement health information technology (HIT) and health information exchange (HIE) capabilities to benefit the communities we serve across the state and across the nation. We are in a unique position as a large scale multi-regional implementer of HIT and HIE to share what we have learned from this experience. We are eager to be part of this remarkable opportunity for collaboration and innovation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.