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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TECHNOLOGY

HCR 148, URGING A STATE-LED COORDINATED EFFORT BY THE
HEALTHCARE 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

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

April 23, 2009, 9:15 AM

1 **Department's Position:** The Department supports this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Personnel time to gather information, facilitate meetings between governmental
3 and non-governmental entities and participate in writing a competitive grant application for funding.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This House Concurrent Resolution urges the Department of Health (DOH),
5 the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Department of Business, Economic Development,
6 and Tourism (DBEDT) to work jointly in coordinating stakeholders in the health care community and
7 the technology community to ensure that Hawaii is able to rapidly respond to and qualify for grant
8 money offered in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for health information
9 exchange technology.

10 The Department recognizes the potential economic and health benefits of establishing a health
11 information exchange infrastructure in Hawaii. The Department is aware that there are private sector

1 activities to coordinate the exchange of health data in the interest of improving healthcare practices. The
2 Department likewise has various public health informatics efforts underway. The Department
3 recognizes that the establishment of a HIE would significantly enhance our ability to conduct public
4 health surveillance, the cornerstone of evidence-based public health practice. The collaboration between
5 the public and private sector on developing a state health information exchange (HIE) should ultimately
6 benefit the people of Hawaii.

7 The Department supports this resolution and will work with DHS and DBEDT in coordinating
8 and mobilizing stakeholders from the private and public sector so that Hawaii is able and ready to
9 respond to grant opportunities through ARRA for HIE development.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator David Ige, Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Conference Room 229
April 23, 2009 at 9:15 a.m.

Testimony in support of HCR 148.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 148, which urges state agencies to work together with health care organizations to ensure that Hawaii can qualify for grants offered by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for health care information exchange (HIE) technology.

HIE is the mobilization of health care information electronically across organizations within a region. HIE makes it possible to electronically move clinical information among disparate health care information systems while maintaining the meaning and substance of the information being exchanged. HIE can facilitate access to clinical data to provide safer, more timely, efficient, effective, equitable patient-centered care. HIE can also be used by public health authorities to assist in analyzing the health of the population.

A measure that is very similar to HCR 148 was introduced in the Senate. SCR 170 was heard by the Senate Health Committee, which made useful amendments to it. Those same amendments should be made to HCR 148.

With those amendments, the Healthcare Association supports HCR 148.

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

April 23, 2009

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senate Committees on Health and Economic Development and Technology

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

Dear Chair Ige, Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in strong support of 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 resolution 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 health information exchange 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.

Through numerous meetings and conversations between the many private sector stakeholders, the community has come together in order to ensure that Hawaii is poised and ready to accept federal funding as soon as it is made available. HMSA, along with many other community members have been able to come to an agreement in support of appointing the Hawaii Health Information Exchange (HHIE) as the "state-designated entity" in Hawaii for purposes of facilitating ARRA grant monies. We support amending the language of HCR 148 to state that HHIE be named Hawaii's state-designated entity.

This could be accomplished by amending lines 22 – 31 on Page 2 to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature supports naming the Hawaii Health Information Exchange (HHIE) as the

state-designated entity under the ARRA funding requirements to ensure that Hawaii is able to rapidly respond to and qualify for grant money offered in ARRA for health care information exchange technology; and

Additionally, the final clause on page 2, lines 38 – 40 should be changed to read as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOH, DHS, and DEBDT are requested to work with the HHIE in this coordinated effort;

We would also ask that HHIE be included among the agencies named on Page 3 receiving certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution.

HMSA is excited by the opportunities presented by the ARRA funding for Hawaii and appreciate the support for the resolution before you today.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations