

HCR 34



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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2009

Friday, April 24, 2009  
9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34 – REQUESTING CONGRESS TO RAISE MEDICARE FEE SCHEDULE PAYMENT AMOUNTS FOR PHYSICIANS RENDERING SERVICES IN HAWAII.**

TO THE HONORABLE SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND AND DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIRS, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is J.P. Schmidt, State Insurance Commissioner ("Commissioner"), testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department supports this resolution.

We support fair and adequate reimbursement for Hawaii physicians. Inadequate reimbursements make it harder for physicians to remain in practice, jeopardizing access to health care. In addition, to the extent that private payers have to make up for inadequate governmental reimbursements an unfair situation is created.

We thank the Committees for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter and request your favorable consideration.

# HMSA



HMSA  
Blue Cross  
Blue Shield  
of Hawaii

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable David Ige, Chair

Senate Committees on Human Services and Health

**Re: HCR 34 - Requesting Congress to Raise Medicare Fee Schedule Payment Amounts for Physicians Rendering Services in Hawaii.**

**HCR 55 - Requesting the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to Increase Reimbursement to Hawaii Providers.**

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Ige and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of HCR 34 and HCR 55.

While Hawaii can boast a lower than average uninsured rate due to the Prepaid Health Care Act (PHCA), it also must be noted that when the economy is not faring well and unemployment is rising the PHCA cannot assist those who have lost their health care coverage along with their jobs. Under this scenario many individuals turn to Hawaii's Medicaid and Medicare programs to receive their health care services. With the poor economic times facing the state and the nation, more individuals will be accessing care through Hawaii's safety net programs. We support these resolutions which request increasing the reimbursement rates for physicians providing care to the neediest in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HCR 34 and HCR 55.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman  
Assistant Vice President  
Government Relations