



Hawaii State Chiropractic Association

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

For hearing on
DATE: Monday, March 02, 2009
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 329

Chairs and committee members of the committees of Human Services and Health:

My name is Dr. Gary Saito. I represent the Hawaii State Chiropractic Association as its President and Executive Director. We are in **full support of the intent of HCR 34.**

For far too long, the Medicare reimbursement rate for physicians practicing in Hawaii has been inadequate because:

1. The single geographic practice cost index of 1.000 for Hawaii physicians' work component is too low and does not reflect the cost of doing business in Hawaii.
2. The geographically adjusted fee for the region that includes Hawaii incorporates states where the practice cost indices have been determined to be lower.
3. Assigning a regionally fixed fee disadvantages Hawaii where the cost of living, and therefore the cost of doing business, exceeds that in other states.

We support the initiative to forward a request to CMS to revise its geographic practice cost index so that it is appropriate for the work of physicians in Hawaii.

Pres. & Exec Dir, HSCA