

# SCR 167

**Measure Title:** SUPPORTING THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GRANTS.

**Report Title:** Health Information Technology Grants

# Hawai'i Health Information Exchange

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**To: The Senate Committee on Health**  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Economic Development & Technology**  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

## **Testimony in Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 167 Relating to Health Information Exchange**

**Submitted by: Christine Maii Sakuda, President Hawaii Health Information Exchange  
April 1, 2009, 2:30 p.m. agenda, Room 016**

Dear Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs and committee members,

I am submitting testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 167 to you today on behalf of the Hawaii Health Information Exchange (HHIE); a non-profit established in 2006 by leading healthcare providers in Hawaii who are committed to facilitating statewide health information exchange. The HHIE agrees with the premise of this bill: that exchange of critical health information among providers needs to be actively and thoughtfully nurtured in Hawaii through a strong public-private partnership. The HHIE further agrees with SCR167 that designating an entity to be considered a "state designated entity" which has the healthcare and technological experience, neutrality, community involvement and track record in coordinating health information exchange activities will help assure statewide success.

With proper governance and resources, the benefits of a health information exchange to improve care coordination for Hawaii's patients are numerous and include: improved health care outcomes, reduced duplication of services, increased accuracy and timeliness of transitional care between provider institutions, and elimination of errors due to discontinuity.

HHIE is an organization dedicated to addressing these issues in Hawaii. Board members include the state's two leading laboratories, two of the largest hospital systems, the largest health care insurer, one of the largest health care databases providing administrative data for analysis and reporting, industry experts, providers and community organizations.

We recommend that any statewide HIE initiative include in its leadership the healthcare providers directly responsible for managing and maintaining patient's clinical information. It is imperative to have these providers, ultimately the primary users of a health information exchange, involved from the beginning.

The HHIE and its members hold the following guiding principles - Hawaii's HIE shall:

- Utilize the federated model of health data exchange.
- Be patient centered
- Ensure secure and accurate exchange of electronic health information from various databases
- Based on standards both national and those set by HHIE members for community specific needs

- Promote choice of vendors, devices, providers, etc. HHIE shall be independent and open to working with all stakeholders

HHIE's business plan is action oriented and outlines the following tactical steps as its initial projects:

1. First to assume as a jumping off point the maintenance of the Holomua master visit registry (HMVR) which was created by a collaboration between two hospitals and two community health centers.
2. Second, the development of a statewide master patient index.
3. Third, the integration of laboratory results information into the HMVR platform.
4. Fourth, the integration of enabling services into traditional healthcare services to promote the patient centered medical home.
5. Fifth, to implement a Data Standards Committee of representative stakeholders to begin to address the needs for data standards, security, privacy, confidentiality and other common issues to all members in facilitating proper health information exchange.

HHIE will continue to invite other organizations and individuals essential to this important cause, to participate with or become members of HHIE as it further develops health information exchange policies and procedures in the State of Hawaii.

**We support this resolution and believe the coordination of statewide Health Information Exchange efforts should be designated to a "state designated entity" which has the healthcare and technological experience, neutrality, community involvement and track record in coordinating health information exchange activities will help assure statewide success such as the HHIE.**

Thank you for the opportunity to support this resolution.



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

*"Touching Lives Every Day"*

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
**Senator David Y. Ige, Chair**  
**Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair**

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair**  
**Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair**

Wednesday, April 1, 2009  
2:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 016  
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony for SCR 167 Relating To Supporting The Health Care Community's Efforts To Obtain Federal Funding For Health Information Technology Grants.**

Testimony By:  
Thomas M. Driskill, Jr.  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of this resolution.

HHSC acknowledges the need to increase access to quality health care and improve the real-time sharing of patient information within a secure infrastructure. The communities the HHSC facilities serve are geographically dispersed and in some cases disadvantaged. The information technology advances that will support rapid creation and retrieval of vital patient data are necessary, and will contribute to improve the overall health of Hawaii's people.

The HHSC has supported the use of tele-health and tele-medicine for many years and has worked collaboratively with other groups to support efforts to enhance health care information technology capabilities. HHSC want to move its acute care, long term care, critical access hospitals and clinics to a more comprehensive electronic patient record system. However, the principal barrier to moving forward is the lack of available funding to address the many prerequisites and tasks involved in implementing comprehensive electronic medical records systems.

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[www.hhsc.org](http://www.hhsc.org) <<http://www.hhsc.org>>

Funding that is available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will provide the ability for Hawaii's health care organizations to continue working together to provide an integrated efficient model for delivery of quality healthcare to Hawaii's people. This will be done by ensuring the infrastructure, the training and the certified interoperable systems are in place for community health care providers to use.

We look forward to working closely with State agencies, health care community and the technology communities to obtain significant funding for Health Care IT in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of SCR 167.

Testimony of  
Phyllis Dendle  
Director of Government Relations

Before:  
Senate Committee on Health  
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Josh Green M.D., Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn H Baker, Vice Chair

April 1, 2009  
2:30 pm  
Conference Room 016

**Re: SCR 167 SUPPORTING THE HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS TO  
OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTH INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY GRANTS.**

Chairs Ige and Fukunaga and committee members; thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR167 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 your consideration.

# HMSA



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April 1, 2009

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

Senate Committees on Health and Economic Development and Technology

**Re: SCR 167 – Supporting the Health Care Community’s Efforts to Obtain Federal Funding for Health Information Technology Grants**

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 SCR 167.

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. SCR 167 reiterates 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Diesman  
Assistant Vice President  
Government Relations



## Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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To: **The Senate Committee on Health**  
The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

**The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology**  
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The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of SCR 167**  
**Supporting the Health Care Community's Efforts**  
**To Obtain Federal Funding for**  
**Health Information Technology Grants**  
Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO  
April 1, 2009, 2:30 p.m. agenda, Room 016

The Hawaii Primary Care Association agrees with both the premises and conclusions of this resolution. The availability of new health information technology can support the transformation of our health care system through improved quality and reduced errors and costs. While competing interests might seek to seize HIT for business advantage, it is absolutely imperative that our public policy ensures that these technologies are used to unite the health care sector and employ their advantages to the benefit of our entire population. Any federal funding that may become available to the State for HIT should be thoughtfully used following a plan prepared by an inclusive group for systems that serve a public purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.