

Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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

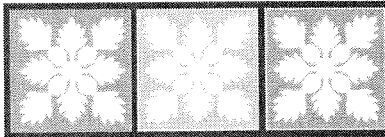
Testimony in Support of SCR 170, SD 2
Requesting the Hawaii State Legislature to Convene a
Hawaii Health Care Summit to Develop a Strategic and
Comprehensive Plan for Health Care in Hawaii

Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO

April 24, 2009, 8:45 a.m. agenda, Room 229

The Hawaii Primary Care Association supports this resolution and is eager to participate in the planned Hawaii Health Care Summit. This is a very timely proposal with national health care reform a real possibility, evolving needs based on changes in demographics and health status, the emergence of new technologies and approaches to care, and shifts in the availability and viability of some of our basic health care institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.



Hawaii Association of Health Plans

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

Re: SCR 170 SD2 - Requesting the Hawaii State Legislature to Convene a Hawaii Health Care Summit to Develop a Strategic and Comprehensive Plan for Health Care in Hawaii

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

My name is Rick Jackson and I am President of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans ("HAHP"). HAHP is a non-profit organization consisting of seven (7) member organizations:

AlohaCare
Hawaii Medical Assurance Association
HMSA
Hawaii-Western Management Group, Inc.

MDX Hawai'i
University Health Alliance
UnitedHealthcare

Our mission is to promote initiatives aimed at improving the overall health of Hawaii. We are also active participants in the legislative process. Before providing any testimony at a Legislative hearing, all HAHP member organizations must be in unanimous agreement of the statement or position.

HAHP appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 170 SD2 which would convene a health care summit to comprehensively examine the pressing health care needs facing the state. We look forward to being a part of this strategic initiative to develop meaningful health care policy. With the Obama Administration focused on health care, convening a summit of this type could produce meaningful and long lasting change for Hawaii.

Yours truly,

Rick Jackson
President

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

Re: SCR 170 SD2 – Requesting the Hawaii State Legislature to Convene a Hawaii Health Care Summit to Develop a Strategic and Comprehensive Plan for Health Care in Hawaii

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

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of SCR 170 SD2.

We appreciate the intent of SCR 170 SD2 to gather together key stakeholders from across the health care community in order to develop a comprehensive plan to shape the future of health care in Hawaii. With the Obama Administration's keen interest in overhauling health care, convening a summit to explore local health care issues could assist with any planning that is necessary in conjunction with federal legislation.

We look forward to working with all health care stakeholders in the community as we shape Hawaii's health care future. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

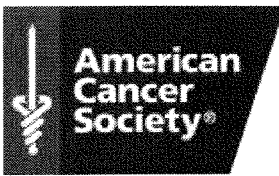
Conference Room 229
April 24, 2009 at 8:45 a.m.

Supporting SCR 170 SD 2.

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 submit testimony in support of SCR 170 SD 2, which requests the Legislature to convene a health care summit to develop a strategic plan for health care.

The concurrent resolution describes many of the problems faced by consumers of health care, providers, insurance plans, and government agencies. In addition, Hawaii faces a significant and growing population of people who are uninsured. The health care environment is a complex one, and there is a growing awareness that our health care system is broken. It will take a concerted effort by all affected parties to fix it. We appreciate the efforts of the Legislature to convene a health care summit to create a plan that addresses the major problems of health care.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports SCR 170 SD 2.



April 22, 2009

Committee on Health
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Hearing:

8:45 A.M., Friday, April 24, 2009
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

RE: SRC170, Requesting the Hawaii State Legislature to Convene a Hawaii Health Care Summit to Develop a Strategic and Comprehensive Plan for Health Care in Hawaii

Testimony in Strong Support

Chair Yamane and Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the Committee on Health. My name is George Massengale and on behalf of the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc., we are offering this testimony in strong support of SCR170.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. was formed in 1959, and is a community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service. This also includes advocating for public health policies that improve our access to health care.

Two years ago the American Cancer Society launched a Health Access Campaign to foster debate on how to fix problems with our current health care structure. We believe that convening a Hawaii Health Care Summit is the first step in addressing the complexities of health care reform.

Although the Society does not endorse any particular plan for healthcare reform, we do believe that the health care summit focus on four key principles in defining health care in Hawaii:

- **Adequate:** People must have timely access to the full range of health care, including prevention and early detection.
- **Affordable:** Health care cost should be based on the patient's ability to pay.
- **Available:** Our residents need to have coverage no matter what their health status is or what treatments they've had in the past.
- **Administratively simple:** The health care process should be easy to understand and navigate.

We truly believe that if a concerted effort were undertaken to develop a comprehensive health care plan in Hawaii we would be able to provide quality health care to all our residents regardless of insurance status, or current medical condition and need.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this resolution.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George S. Massengale".

George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations

American Cancer Society Hawai'i Pacific, Inc., 2370 Nu'uuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1714
●Phone: (808) 595-7500 ●Fax: (808) 595-7502 ●24-Hour Cancer Info: (800) 227-2345 ●<http://www.cancer.org>