

SCR170



Wednesday, April 8, 2009, 9:00 am, CR 211

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Gary A. Okamoto, MD, President
Philip Hellreich, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
April Donahue, Executive Director
Richard C. Botti, Government Affairs
Lauren Zirbel, Government Affairs

RE: SCR170 REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE A HAWAII HEALTH CARE SUMMIT TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR HEALTH CARE IN HAWAII. (Hawaii Health Care Summit)

Support with Amendments

Chairs and Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association strongly believes that a collaborative effort is needed in developing strategy for health care in Hawaii. It is crucial that representation from physicians, hospitals, and other providers of care be involved in this discussion.

As such, if this measure is passed, an amendment is needed to add the requirement that representatives of the Hawaii Medical Association and vital specialty and primary care societies will be included in the membership of the Hawaii Health Care Summit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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Cynthia Jean Goto, MD
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Executive Director

Hawaii Medical Association
1360 S. Beretania St.
Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96814
(808) 536-7702
(808) 528-2376 fax
www.hmaonline.net



Senate WAM Cmte
Wed, April 8, 2009
9 AM
room 211

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

April 6, 2009

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers
RE: SCR 170 SD1 Requesting the Hawaii State Legislature to Convene a Hawaii Health Care Summit to Develop a Strategic and Comprehensive Plan for Health Care in Hawaii - **SUPPORT if social workers are included.**

Madam Chair and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter. NASW is the largest professional organization for social workers in Hawaii. We are testifying in **SUPPORT of SCR 170 SD1 and request that social workers be included in any strategic and comprehensive plan for health care in Hawaii.**

Social workers are important components of the health care system. We provide services to individuals and their families navigating complex system of services. From health clinics to schools, hospitals to public welfare agencies, elder care agencies to child welfare agencies, social workers are often responsible for coordinating a range of care services for their clients. These services can include housing referrals, income maintenance, protective and preventive services, and health care services. We are a discipline that connects people to services and other important community resources. Social workers are the "key" that opens doors of access to many services.

Social work professionals are also a crucial force in addressing and eliminating health care disparities, not only because of their experience in health care environments, but also because of their commitment to clients who are likely to face such disparities in a variety of settings. We hope that the health care summit will also address disparities in health care.

In 2004, NASW (national) established a Center for Workforce Studies to conduct studies of the current social work labor force as well as collect information from other sources in order to serve as a unique clearinghouse for educators, policy makers, social workers, and public and private work force planners. A study was conducted of licensed social workers in health care settings and it concluded that the "aging-out" of the frontline social worker providing direct services to clients in a wide range of community agencies was a serious concern. Social work will experience a "double squeeze" as a result of the Baby Boomer phenomenon. There will be an explosion in the demand for health and social services provided by social workers as an estimated 70 million people will be over age 65 by 2030. At the same time, a substantial cohort of frontline social workers will be leaving the workforce. According to data projections of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, social work is one of the occupations most affected by Baby Boomer retirements, Occupations dominated by women, like social work, are especially vulnerable with an aging workforce because women's level of workforce participation is lower than men's as they approach retirement age (Toossi, 2005). Additional studies about how the growing demand for health care services will affect the role and numbers of social workers needed in key settings will be useful to assure that adequate number of health care social workers are recruited and supported in this field.

We hope you will include social workers as part of the health care summit. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street | Suite 601 | Honolulu, HI 96813-4718 | Tel: 808.536.8442 | Fax: 808.524.0347
www.hawaiipca.net

To: **The Senate Committee on Ways & Means**
The Hon. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Hon. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SCR 170, SD 1
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 8, 2009, 9:00 a.m. agenda, Room 211

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.

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

April 8, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SCR 170 SD1 – 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 Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of SCR 170 SD1.

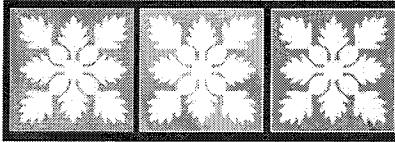
We appreciate the intent of SCR 170 SD1 to gather together key stakeholders from across the health care community in order to develop a comprehensive plan to shape the future of health care in Hawaii. With the Obama Administration's keen interest in overhauling health care convening a summit to explore 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,

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



Hawaii Association of Health Plans

April 8, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SCR 170 SD1 - 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 Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui 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 SD1 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



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Conference Room 211
April 8, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

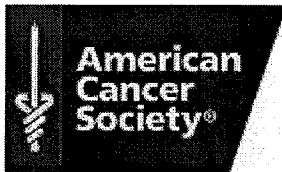
Supporting SCR 170 SD1 with an amendment.

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 comment on SCR 170, which requests the Legislature to convene a health care summit. The Healthcare Association supports the concurrent resolution with an amendment.

The concurrent resolution describes many of the problems faced by consumers of health care, providers, insurance plans, and government agencies. 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.

As the representative of hospitals, long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices, the Healthcare Association, which has studied many health care issues over the years, would like to request representation as a named member of the Health Care Summit.

With that amendment, the Healthcare Association supports SCR 170.



April 7, 2009

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Hearing:

9:00 A.M., Wednesday, April 8, 2009
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211

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 Kim and Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the Committee on Way and Means. 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 black ink, 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>



888 Mililani Street, Suite 601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991

Telephone: 808.543.0000
Facsimile: 808.528.4059

www.hgea.org

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
April 8, 2009

S.C.R. 170, S.D. 1 – REQUESTING THE
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO
CONVENE A HEALTH CARE SUMMIT TO
DEVELOP A STRATEGIC AND
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR HEALTH
CARE IN HAWAII.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the purpose and intent of S.C.R. 170, S.D. 1. While there are many positive aspects of health care in Hawaii thanks to the state's prepaid health care act, there are also a number of serious problems noted in S.C.R. 170, S.D. 1. Everyone benefits from healthy communities, where we all have access to affordable, quality health care from a provider of our choice, when we need it, at a cost we can afford. The goal of the HGEA and our national union AFSCME is affordable, quality health care for everyone.

One of the issues of great concern to the HGEA is the continued escalation of health care for our members and the public at large. Over the next two years, public employees are facing significant increases in their health care premiums and co-payments along with possible reductions in the scope of coverage. Our current health care system locally and nationally is no longer affordable for many families, businesses and government. We need a comprehensive solution to secure our families' health and a healthy economy. The ever increasing cost of health care is not sustainable either.

The long-term goal should be to provide health care coverage with out-of-pocket costs, including premiums and co-payments that are based on a family's ability to pay for health care and without limits on payments for covered services. We respectfully suggest several amendments to strengthen S.C.R. 170, S.D. 1. First, consumers should be among the twenty-five members of the health care summit. Second, the summit's strategic and comprehensive plan should address the cost of health care and steps to make it more affordable and accessible. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.C.R. 170, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director