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February 17, 2010

To: The Honorable Robert N. Herkes
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

From: 'Ohana Health Plan

Re: House Bill 2096, House Draft 1-Relating to Prescription Drugs

Hearing: Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 2:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325

Since February 2009, 'Ohana Health Plan has provided services under the Hawai'i QUEST Expanded Access (QExA) program. 'Ohana is managed by a local team of experienced care professionals who embrace cultural diversity, advocate preventative care and facilitate communications between members and providers. Our philosophy is to place members and their families at the center of the health care continuum.

'Ohana Health Plan is offered by WellCare Health Insurance of Arizona, Inc. WellCare provides managed care services exclusively for government-sponsored health care programs serving approximately 2.3 million Medicaid and Medicare members nationwide. 'Ohana is able to take the national experience in providing an Ohana care model that addresses local members' healthcare and health coordination needs.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to House Bill 2096, House Draft 1-Relating to Prescription Drugs.

Requiring health maintenance organizations to base prescription drug coverage approved by a drug formulary advisory board whose membership excludes mainland based physicians, nurses and pharmacist would be cumbersome and result in unnecessary costs. One of the unique strengths that OHP brings to the Hawai'i marketplace is the shared corporate resources of our parent company, WellCare, which includes our pharmacy and therapeutics (P&T) committee. This committee brings expert providers together with leading nationwide knowledge in efficacy and safety.

In addition, OHP has Hawai'i-based and licensed Medical and Pharmacy Directors with many years of practice experience in Hawai'i. They are voting members of the WellCare P&T Committee and are responsible for decisions that effect the people of Hawai'i. Creating a redundant system would likely result in the same decisions at additional costs and waste state funds on administrative costs instead of patient care. Sharing corporate resources buttressed by local medical staff allow us to bring quality services at lower prices for the taxpayers of the State of Hawai'i.

We respectfully request that this measure be held. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2096, House Draft 1.

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