

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Health**

**HB 2576, RELATING TO IMMUNIZATION**

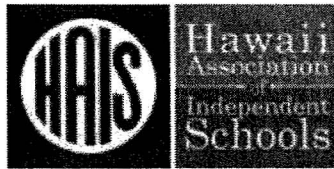
**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**February 5, 2010, 9:30 a.m.**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this administration bill.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** None. No state funds are required to implement this proposal. The Hawai'i
- 3 Immunization Registry (HIR) is supported via a federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 4 Immunizations and Vaccines for Children grant as well as a grant from the Hawaii Medical Services
- 5 Association Foundation.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** The intent of this proposal is to officially establish HIR in the Hawaii
- 7 Revised Statutes and grant the Department and other healthcare providers the authority to include patient
- 8 demographic and immunization information in HIR via implied patient or parent/guardian consent.
- 9 HIR is a secure, confidential, computerized system that has the capability to store immunization
- 10 information for individuals of all ages in the State of Hawai'i. As individuals and families move or
- 11 change health care providers, HIR will consolidate their immunization records, making them easily
- 12 accessible to new immunization providers and ensuring that patients receive the immunizations that they
- 13 need while preventing the receipt of unnecessary doses of vaccines. In the event of an influenza
- 14 pandemic or other public health emergency, HIR will provide the Department with the ability to record,
- 15 track, and monitor the administration of vaccinations as well as the distribution of antiviral and other
- 16 medications. This information is essential for the Department to rapidly assess who has been vaccinated

1 and identify under-immunized populations at risk for disease. This information is especially critical in  
2 public health emergency situations to effectively direct scarce or otherwise limited Departmental  
3 resources to the populations or areas most in need.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Friday, February 5, 2010  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

RE: HB 2576 – Relating to Immunization

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

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

**The Association is in support of House Bill 2576 – Relating to Immunization** which authorizes the Department of Health to establish and maintain a single repository of immunization records to be designated as the “Hawaii Immunization Registry” in order to aid, coordinate, and help promote efficient and cost-effective screening, prevention, and control of vaccine preventable diseases, including pandemic influenza.

The Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR) will help to ensure that all of Hawaii’s people are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. HIR has the capability to store and track immunization information, consolidate immunizations given by multiple providers into one record and make them available to authorized immunization providers.

The Registry will not require any additional reporting by schools; it will reduce school personnel workloads by allowing authorized school personnel access to student immunization information to quickly and easily determine a student’s compliance with Hawaii’s mandatory student immunization requirements.

HAIS believes that establishment of the Hawaii Immunization Registry will protect the health and safety of the public as well as an individual’s right to privacy and the protection of confidential information.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

# HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 5, 2010

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

House Committee on Health

**Re: HB 2576 – Relating to Immunization**

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

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2576 which would authorize the Department of Health to establish and maintain an immunization registry.

HMSA is involved with many public health initiatives throughout the community and the DOH's work towards creating a "Hawaii Immunization Registry" (HIR) is one such project. The HMSA Foundation provided a three year grant for close to \$600,000 to assist DOH in the planning and implementation of the HIR.

The HIR will be a useful tool to store and track immunization information for individuals of all ages in Hawaii. This information will be kept in a secure, computerized system and used to assist the state in instances of public health emergencies. The HIR will also be able to provide statewide data for the management and reporting of immunization information to many different stakeholders.

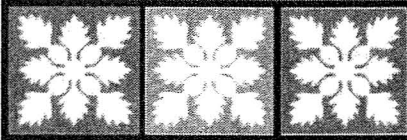
HMSA supports this legislation to officially establish the HIR in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, and we respectfully request the Committee to pass HB 2576.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer Diesman  
Vice President  
Government Relations



## Hawaii Association of Health Plans

February 5, 2010

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

**Re: HB 2576 – Relating to Immunization**

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

My name is Howard Lee 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 HB 2576 which would establish and maintain a repository of immunization records to assist in the control and prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Many other states have implemented the use of an immunization registry as a means to track and monitor the administration and distribution of vaccinations and other antiviral medications. Information of this type is used during public health emergencies to ensure that scarce resources are directed to those most in need. The registry will also be used by the Department of Health to report to the Centers of Disease Control and Protection.

We believe that this is an extremely important initiative especially when considering new and emerging diseases such as the H1N1 flu. An immunization registry will assist in the protection of Hawaii’s residents in the case of a public health emergency. As such, we urge the Committee to pass HB 2576.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Howard Lee  
President

February 3, 2010

To: Committee on Health – Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair and Rep Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

**RE:            Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2576: Relating to Immunization**

Aloha,

Been waiting for this a long time. Started practicing Pediatrics at Kalihi-Palama Health Center over twenty years ago. For the underserved children who needed medical care, holding onto that “yellow card” never was a priority amongst all the other issues that had to be dealt with. Calling other doctors for shot records, waiting for the faxes and checking with the hospitals didn’t seem particularly efficient or effective.

The concept of “implied consent” is critical to the Hawaii Immunization Registry. Without the ready transfer of vaccination information between providers, the system is basically crippled from the start. The two areas most harmed include the functionality of the registry and the trust from the very providers that should benefit the most. If parents or guardians must “Opt-In” the information becomes piecemeal where the system can no longer “**Connect the Dots**”.

SB2729 is a move towards a better way to access immunization information in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Ricardo C. Custodio, M. D., M.P.H.  
Pediatrician  
Medical Director – Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center  
Associate Professor – Waianae Hub, A. T. Stills University Program