



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 9, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.
by

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HCR 17 SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO'S COLLEGE OF PHARMACY IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FUNDING TO ESTABLISH A BEACON COMMUNITY ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH) College of Pharmacy, thank you for the opportunity to support HCR 17. The Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. This program will provide funding to communities to build and strengthen their health information technology (IT) infrastructure and exchange capabilities to demonstrate the vision of the future where hospitals, clinicians, and patients are meaningful users of health IT and together the community achieves measureable improvements in health care quality, safety, efficiency, and population health.

The UHH College of Pharmacy is the lead applicant organization for the Hawai'i County Beacon Community Consortium (HCBCC) application that was submitted on January 29. In addition to the College of Pharmacy, the stakeholders in this consortium application include the Hawai'i County acute care hospitals, federally qualified health centers, Hui Malama Ola Na OIwi, East Hawai'i IPA, Mayor's Office, HMSA, the Hawai'i Health Information Exchange (HHIE), and many other stakeholders committed to demonstrating the Beacon vision in Hawai'i County. If awarded, this grant would fund approximately \$9,000,000 in health information technology for Hawai'i County and create and fund approximately 15 new jobs in Hawai'i County for a three-year period. Most importantly, this would infuse the capacity and capital needed to produce island-wide improvements in health and healthcare and would serve as a model for the use of health IT in rural communities throughout the United States.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



February 8, 2010

The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair
The Honorable Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair House Committee on Higher Education

Re: HCR 17 - Supporting the University of Hawaii at Hilo's College of Pharmacy in its efforts to obtain federal funding to establish a Beacon Community on the island of Hawaii.

Dear Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee:

Microsoft® is pleased to testify in favor of the proposed resolution regarding the University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy's grant application to become a Beacon Community. We recognize Hilo College of Pharmacy as a key community player in Hawaii and appreciate the constant pulse that they and others keep on the health of its residents. Hilo College of Pharmacy is a leader in health education, community outreach and assistance, and has established relationships with community stakeholders to address some of the most pressing health issues. To this end, Hilo College of Pharmacy is taking a proactive approach to engage citizens in their own health management. This approach aligns well with the strategies and investments Microsoft has made in healthcare solutions. Microsoft has a mission to improve health around the world through innovative software and technology, and as such we are elated to see such a diverse set of stakeholders engaging around improving health for the population of Hawaii.

Microsoft believes that the patient is at the center of healthcare reform and has developed healthcare solutions that enable patients and their families to access and share health data more effectively. Microsoft would be pleased to work with Hilo College of Pharmacy and other organizations in Hawaii to maximize the benefits that come from engaging patients in their own health as well as improving the overall effectiveness and efficiencies of the health systems and organizations that provide care for this same population.

Microsoft looks forward to lending support to Hilo College of Pharmacy in this initiative with the goal of improving the health of all Hawaii residents.

Sincerely,

Dr. Edward Barthell
Director, Connected Health
Microsoft Health Solutions Group

HMSA



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January 21, 2010

The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair
The Honorable Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair
House Committee on Higher Education

Re: HCR 17 – Supporting the University of Hawaii at Hilo’s College of Pharmacy in its efforts to obtain federal funding to establish a Beacon Community on the island of Hawaii.

Dear Chair Chang, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in strong support of HCR 17 which would support the efforts currently underway to obtain federal monies to establish a Beacon Community on the Big Island.

UH-Hilo’s College of Pharmacy and the Hawaii County Beacon Community Consortium (HCBCC) are committed to strengthening the use of health information technology in order to improve health care quality while reducing costs, and HMSA is proud to support them in these efforts. The Beacon Community Grant will help provide the funds needed to further integrate technology with the delivery of health care – from implementing meaningful and useful electronic health records, to improving access to appropriate levels of care, to early detection and management of disease.

The support of the Hawaii State Legislature would be greatly appreciated as UH-Hilo’s College of Pharmacy and the HCBCC embark on this ambitious endeavor. HMSA, along with many other community partners and stakeholders, looks forward to achieving the goals set forth in the grant application and improving the overall health and wellbeing of Big Island residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations