



Hawaii Association of Health Plans

LATE

February 19, 2010

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable David Ige, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: SB 2271 SD1 – Relating to Health Insurance Premiums

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Ige 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	MDX Hawai‘i
Hawaii Medical Assurance Association	University Health Alliance
HMSA	UnitedHealthcare
Hawaii-Western Management Group, Inc.	

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 on SB 2271 SD1 which would require health plans report certain cost information to the Insurance Commissioner in the spirit of transparency and create a health data clearinghouse.

It is important to realize that while health plans are a major part of the healthcare system we represent only a small portion of health care dollars. The majority of the dollars within the system itself are spread out between facilities, physicians, clinical laboratories, pharmaceutical drugs, and diagnostic services. Despite this, there are no true valuable resources for consumers to perform comparative searches on the services they are receiving whether it be from a cost or quality perspective. For these reasons we support the amendments made to this measure by the previous Committee which expand the language to include the rest of the health care system within its reporting scope.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

Sincerely,

Howard Lee
President