

SB2529



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection

February 9, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

By

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

And

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Dean and Professor of Medicine
Barry & Virginia Weinman Endowed Chair
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Chairs Ige and Baker and Members of the Senate Health and Consumer Protection Committees, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2529.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine supports SB 2529 because it is very important that Hawai'i establish a system under the department of commerce and consumer protection to collect, analyze and distribute health insurance claims information. We prefer SB2529 to the alternative version SB 2530.

Our support of SB 2529 is based on six factors:

1. We believe in transparency in health care.
2. We believe that all of us--health care providers, researchers, insurers, policy makers, citizens—need to understand how Hawai'i's delivery system works. This common understanding supports both the identification and resolution of changes needed in the system.
3. We believe the information collected, once analyzed, can help all of us improve the quality of care delivered.

4. We anticipate that rising costs of healthcare will compel us to find ways to assess current utilization and use this information to optimize clinical outcomes while eliminating waste, overutilization and underutilization.
5. We believe it is inevitable that these data will be mandated. The sooner we act to collect it and understand it, the greater will be our collective ability to design the system we want rather than react to a system imposed through Federal legislation.
6. Currently, no one data set provides a comprehensive look at the utilization and delivery of health services in the state. Without benefit of knowing the big picture, we cannot effectively plan for the provision of health services, training of adequate numbers of providers, or managing cost and quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 2529.



BETTER HEALTH • BETTER LIFE

LATE

Measures: SB 2529 and SB 2530

Date and Time of Hearing: February 9, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

February 8, 2010

Chairman Ige and Chairman Baker and Members of the Senate Health and Consumer Protection Committees:

I am Howard Lee, Executive Vice President and COO of University Health Alliance, a mutual benefit society which provides our members with access to quality health care services while protecting them from financial loss due to illness or injury. Through our partnership with physicians and medical scientists, we envision ourselves as a force for continuously improving the quality of our members' health care.

University Health Alliance supports SB 2529 which establishes a system under the department of commerce and consumer protection to collect, analyze and distribute health insurance claims information. We do not support SB 2530 because we prefer the version presented in SB2529.

Our support of SB 2529 is based on four factors:

1. We believe in transparency in health care.
2. We believe that all of us--health care providers, insurers, policy makers, citizens--need to understand how Hawaii's delivery system works. This common understanding supports both the identification and resolution of changes needed in the system.
3. We believe the information collected, once analyzed, can help all of us improve the quality of care delivered.
4. We believe it is inevitable that these data will be mandated. The sooner we act to collect it and understand it, the greater will be our collective ability to design the system we want rather than react to a system imposed through Federal legislation.

We do not object to the proposed fee to be imposed on health plans as a means of supporting this database.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 2529.

Sincerely,

Howard K.F. Lee

Executive Vice President and COO



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Hawaii Association of Health Plans

February 9, 2010

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection

LATE

Re: SB 2529 – Relating to Healthcare Claims
SB 2530 – Relating to Healthcare Claims

Dear Chair Ige, Chair Baker and Members of the Committees:

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 on SB 2529 and SB 2530 which are extremely similar and would establish a system under the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to collect, analyze and distribute health care information. HAHP supports the intent of this measure.

Transparency seems to be a buzz word this session with many bills attempting to accomplish similar goals. As this Committee is well aware, many of the HAHP member plans have been meeting with other stakeholders in the health care system, to begin to sort out the myriad issues and potential regulatory and privacy concerns revolving around the sharing of information. While we appreciate the intent behind the measures before you today we believe that even more comprehensive efforts need to be undertaken in order to make the sharing of data relevant. We look forward to working together to accomplish the goal of greater transparency throughout the health care system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Howard Lee
President