

# HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 25, 2010

## LATE TESTIMONY

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

### Re: SB 2729 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Immunization

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2729 SD2 HD1 which would authorize the Department of Health (DOH) 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 pass SB 2729 SD2 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman  
Vice President  
Government Relations



# Hawaii Association of Health Plans

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

## LATE TESTIMONY

**Re: SB 2729 SD2 HD1 -- Relating to Immunization**

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee 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 SB 2729 SD2 HD1 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 SB 2729 SD2 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments today.

Sincerely,



Howard Lee  
President