



February 23, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 2729 SD1 – Relating to Immunization

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui 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 SD1 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 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments today.

Sincerely,

Howard Lee
President



Tuesday, February 23, 2010

10:05 a.m.

Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 2729, SD1 – Relating to Immunization

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, 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 Senate Bill 2729, SD1 – 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

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The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
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Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 2729 SD1 – Relating to Immunization

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2729 SD1 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 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JDiesman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations