



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

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House Committee on Health

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1506, SD 2 RELATING TO HEALTH

Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer

March 15, 2011 8:30 a.m. Agenda, Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association asks for your support for this measure, which would require that health insurance pay for activities related to reducing childhood obesity. The rapidly increasing rate of obesity among children and youth in Hawai'i is of grave concern for the mental and physical health concerns visited upon young people now, and for the future health problems and costs we will face if we do nothing about it. Given the grievous affects on health of childhood obesity, we believe it is as important to cover intervention activities as it is to pay for the medical care required to address obesity-related health problems. We also believe that legislating this now helps move us toward a patient-centered care model that supports health rather than concentrates all resources on problems we failed to prevent.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Hawaii Association of Health Plans

March 15, 2011

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

Re: SB 1506 SD2 – Relating to Health

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa 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 eight (8) member organizations:

AlohaCare	Kaiser Permanente
Hawaii Medical Assurance Association	MDX Hawai‘i
HMSA	University Health Alliance
Hawaii-Western Management Group, Inc.	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 1506 SD2 which would require a state mandate for health plans to provide coverage for treatment of childhood obesity for those participating in a pilot project. Due to requirements of the federal legislation known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we believe that passage of SB 1506 SD2 is unnecessary at this time and therefore HAHP cannot support its passage.

The ACA requires that health plans provide a wide range of preventive services to members with no co-payments, including the services described in SB 1506 SD2. These preventive services were guidelines recommended by two federal agencies, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (“A” and “B” rated screenings.) If a plan was not already providing coverage for a preventive service required under ACA at no co-payment, non-grandfathered plans must add coverage for the service at the latest September 2011. Due to these factors, we believe that SB 1506 SD2 is unnecessary at this time and would respectfully urge the Committees see fit to hold it. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Howard Lee, President

• AlohaCare • HMAA • HMSA • HWMG • Kaiser Permanente • MDX Hawaii • UHA • UnitedHealthcare •
HAHP c/o Howard Lee, UHA, 700 Bishop Street, Suite 300 Honolulu 96813
www.hahp.org

**Submitted Testimony:
Sandra E. Wood, PT
SB 1506sd2, Relating to Health
Hse HLT, Tues. March 15, 2011
Room 329, 8:30 am**



Position: Strong Support

Chair Yamane, and Members of the House HLT Committee:

I am Sandra Wood, P.T., member of HAPTA's Legislative Committee. HAPTA represents 250-300 physical therapists and physical therapist assistants employed in hospitals, nursing homes, the Armed Forces, the Department of Education and Department of Health (DOH) systems, and private clinics throughout our community. Physical therapists work with everyone, from infants to the elderly, to restore and improve function and quality of life. We are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Physical therapy services are a vital part of restoring optimum function from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments, improving wellness, and teaching prevention.

Strong support is expressed for this measure that calls for the recognition that childhood obesity is a formal diagnosis that should be reimbursable by insurance providers. Obesity, in addition to affecting the child's health, social and psychological condition, also increases the probability that the child will become an obese adult who is likely to develop heart disease, hypertension, sleep apnea, stress on joint structures, back problems and other conditions such as cancers (endometrial, breast and colon), infertility, liver and gallbladder disease and osteoarthritis.

We support the appropriation of funds for the establishment of a childhood obesity pilot program and encourage reimbursement coverage for medical visits focused on the management of lifestyle changes, ongoing support, and nutrition services.

Suggestions:

In addition to diet and weight management, physical activity is essential. In support of increased physical activity for children, we suggest that physical education in the schools be mandated. More attention is also needed on maintaining safe neighborhood parks and playgrounds to encourage use by children.

I can be reached at (808) 754-0979 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.