

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

LATE  
TESTIMONY

LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Health**

**SB0797, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HEALTH INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Acting Director of Health**

**February 9, 2011**

1 **Department's Position:** The department strongly supports SB797.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** General funds appropriations ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000, dependant on  
3 unspecified future Meaningful Use criteria

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health  
5 (HITECH), funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, presents a once in a  
6 generation opportunity for the Department of Health to make a leap forward in its health information  
7 technology infrastructure. Specifically, the federal matches provided by the State Health Information  
8 Exchange Cooperative Agreement, ranging from a 1:10 match in FY11, 1:7 match in FY12, and 1:3  
9 match in FY13, are absolutely essential in meeting the mandatory Meaningful Use standards set forth by  
10 the federal government.

11

12 Unlike most other states, Hawaii does not have county-level health departments, so the Department of  
13 Health is an indispensable player in the health information environment in Hawaii, both as a consumer  
14 of data for public health purposes, producer of data as a service delivery provider, and conduit to federal