

LATE

Testimony for CPN 3/23/2012 9:00:00 AM GM628

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Beverly Deepe Kever, PH.D.

Organization: Individual

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Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

BEVERLY DEEPE KEEVER, PH.D

OPPOSES GM 628

I oppose the appointment of Faye Kurren, who has a palpable conflict of interest because of her association with Hawaii Dental Services. Please do not appoint her.

Thank you for considering this testimony.
Beverly Deepe Kever

Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

LATE

THE SENATE

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Friday, March 23, 2012; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 628
FAYE KURREN
FOR THE HAWAII HEALTH CONNECTOR BOARD**

The ILWU Local 142 supports the confirmation of Faye Watanabe Kurren to serve on the board of the Hawaii Health Connector.

Ms. Kurren has served as President and CEO of Hawaii Dental Service for the past decade. HDS is the leading provider of dental benefit plans in Hawaii, providing coverage to more than a half million members and boasting the largest network of dentists in the state. HDS has a proud history of serving Hawaii residents for the past 50 years. Among the first to be covered by HDS were the children of Hawaii stevedores, who were members of the ILWU.

Ms. Kurren has extensive experience in private sector business as legal counsel for Pacific Resources, Inc., vice president at BHP Hawaii, and finally president of Tesoro Hawaii. Ms. Kurren is actively involved in community service with organizations as diverse as the Hawaii Pacific Health, Helping Hands Hawaii, and the State Commission on the Status of Women. She is committed to the well-being of all of Hawaii's residents.

The Hawaii Health Connector was established to be the health insurance exchange for Hawaii. Under the individual mandate of the Affordable Care Act, each state must establish an exchange by 2014 for individuals and small businesses to purchase health plans, which include dental health benefits for children. As the head of HDS, Ms. Kurren is well-qualified to address dental health issues.

There have been critics who question whether or not insurers should be included on the board of the Hawaii Health Connector. In fact, one legislative committee has amended a bill to remove health plan representatives from the board. However, we believe that Ms. Kurren should be given consideration for the board because she can offer expertise and knowledge without bias and will represent the best interests of consumers.

The ILWU urges confirmation of Faye Kurren for the board of the Hawaii Health Connector. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views.

LATE



March 18, 2012
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012

From: HAWAII COALITION FOR HEALTH
by Rafael del Castillo
Submitted on the Capitol Website

To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Hearing: March 23, 2012, 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 229

Re: Nominees to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Connector

Senators Baker and Taniguchi, and
honorable members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 2434 SD1 HD1.

The Hawaii Coalition for Health celebrates the beginning of its sixteenth year advocating for Hawai'i's health consumers. HCFH has served on the Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities Task Force, the MedQUEST Advisory Committee, and has testified numerous times before the Legislature on matters of consumer interest and health insurance issues. HCFH regularly receives input from a wide variety of organizations and individuals with decade-upon-decade of experience and knowledge in health insurance and access to health care. HCFH has consistently employed its information and expertise to inform the Legislature and the State and Federal Administrations, and to advocate for better benefits and beneficial competition in health insurance. Hawaii is unique among the fifty states in having established the requirement that employees have prepaid healthcare since 1973, something the Affordable Care Act was enacted to ensure for the rest of the nation. For that reason, and others, it is incumbent on all of us to take care in implementing all of the Affordable Care Act requirements to produce the long term benefits it is designed to create, instead of harming our health insurance market and sacrificing benefits we already enjoy.

- The Hawaii Coalition for Health supports confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Connector of the following Gubernatorial nominees:

GM 620 Gubernatorial Nominee, ROBERT HIROKAWA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014. Mr. Hirokawa has served on the interim board and will bring unique perspective, experience, and

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knowledge of the health care market and the Affordable Care Act to the Board of Directors. HCFH has no conflict of interest concerns with Mr. Hirokawa's appointment.

GM 643 Gubernatorial Nominee, CLEMENTINA CERIA-ULEP, for a term to expire 6-30-2014. Ms. Ceria-Ulep brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of health care and health care issues to the Board of Directors. Through the many ways she has served the community, and the many roles in which she has served, she has accumulated important contacts that will help the Board of Directors formulate and implement effective outreach measures to reach the uninsured and underinsured. HCFH has no conflict of interest concerns with Ms. Ceria-Ulep's appointment.

GM 626 Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL GLEASON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015. Mr. Gleason also brings a wealth of knowledge and experience it will be helpful for the Board of Directors to have, as well as community contacts that will help with implementing effective outreach. HCFH has no conflict of interest concerns with Mr. Gleason's appointment.

- The Hawaii Coalition for Health opposes confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Connector of the following Gubernatorial nominees:

GM 624 Gubernatorial Nominee, JOAN DANIELEY, for a term to expire 6-30-2015. Ms. Danieley would be a fine candidate for many types of appointment, but not for the Connector Board of Directors. Ms. Danieley has an employment relationship with Hawaii's second largest commercial health insurer, an insurer which has a financial interest in the \$300 million uninsured market. The DHHS Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight has issued guidance on the exchanges stating that the exchange is a change-agent, intended to reduce insurance rates and increase competition, to empower consumers, and to provide small businesses with the same purchasing power their large business competitors have. Kaiser has no interest in increasing competition, and a strong interest in maintaining the status quo in rates instead of seeing them reduced through increased competition. Even if Kaiser was inclined to see those changes come about, it would unduly risk retaliation from its large business clients. It simply would not be smart business for Kaiser to assist the Connector in realizing the goals of the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Danieley therefore has hopelessly irreconcilable conflicts of interest and HCFH must strongly oppose her confirmation.

GM 625 Gubernatorial Nominee, JENNIFER DIESMAN, for a term to expire 6-30-2014. HCFH has frequent dealings with HMSA on behalf of patients seeking coverage of medical procedures, and we appreciate the working relationship that we have. Our opposition to Ms. Diesman's appointment is no reflection on her or HMSA. HMSA makes many fine contributions to the community, and Ms. Diesman would be a fine candidate for many types of appointment, but not for the Connector Board of Directors. Ms. Diesman has an employment relationship with Hawaii's largest commercial health insurer, an insurer which has a very large financial interest in the \$300 million uninsured market. The DHHS Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight has issued guidance on the exchanges stating that the exchange is a change-agent, intended to reduce insurance rates and increase competition, to empower consumers, and to provide small businesses with the same purchasing power their large business competitors have. HMSA has no interest in increasing competition, and a strong

interest in maintaining the status quo in rates instead of seeing them reduced through increased competition. Even if HMSA was inclined to see those changes come about, it would unduly risk retaliation from its large business clients. It simply would not be smart business for HMSA to assist the Connector in realizing the goals of the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Diesman should not be put in the position of having to choose between her employer's interests and the interests of small businesses and consumers. Service on the Connector Board of Directors requires complete fidelity to the interests of consumers and small businesses to increased competition and lower rates. Ms. Diesman therefore has hopelessly irreconcilable conflicts of interest and HCFH regrettably must strongly oppose her confirmation.

GM 628 Gubernatorial Nominee, FAYE KURREN, for a term to expire 6-30-2014. Ms. Kurren would be a fine candidate for many types of appointment, but not for the Connector Board of Directors. Ms. Kurren has an employment relationship with Hawaii's largest dental insurer, an insurer which has a financial interest in the \$300 million uninsured market. The DHHS Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight has issued guidance on the exchanges stating that the exchange is a change-agent, intended to reduce insurance rates and increase competition, to empower consumers, and to provide small businesses with the same purchasing power their large business competitors have. HDS has no interest in increasing competition, and a strong interest in maintaining the status quo in rates instead of seeing them reduced through increased competition. Even if HDS was inclined to see those changes come about, it would unduly risk retaliation from its large business clients. It simply would not be smart business for HDS to assist the Connector in realizing the goals of the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Kurren therefore has hopelessly irreconcilable conflicts of interest and HCFH must strongly oppose her confirmation.

The Hawaii Coalition for Health takes no position on confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Connector of the following Gubernatorial nominees:

GM 618 Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERRY MENOR-MCNAMARA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

GM 621 Gubernatorial Nominee, CLIFFORD ALAKAI, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

GM 622 Gubernatorial Nominee, GWEN RULONA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

GM 623 Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTINE SAKUDA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Aloha and thank you for your efforts on behalf of Hawaii's health care insurance consumers,

Hawaii Coalition for Health

by Rafael del Castillo