

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

January 24, 2012

The Honorable I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

Re: HB 1708 – Relating to Mental Health

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to comment and support the intent of HB 1708, which authorizes an emergency examination of a patient by telemedicine for purposes of emergency hospitalization in a psychiatric facility.

In January 2009, HMSA became the first health plan in the country to offer an innovative telemedicine service, known as Online Care, through an agreement with American Well and Microsoft. One of the benefits of Online Care is to provide access to health care providers in underserved communities. Online Care already provides access to psychiatrists and psychologists.

HB 1708 will authorize a physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist to examine an individual in a designated facility, using telemedicine communication, to determine if the individual requires emergency hospitalization. And, it requires that individual to be accompanied by a licensed health care professional in the examination room to record information at the time of the examination.

As a proponent of the use of telemedicine for our underserved and rural communities, HMSA appreciates and supports the intent of HB 1708.

Finally, for your information, thanks to the efforts of this Legislature, within the next couple of months, Kona Community Hospital and HMSA will be unveiling a joint medical van pilot program for Hawaii Island that incorporates Online Care services and will further extend services into that large, underserved community

Sincerely,

Mark K. Oto
Director
Government Relations



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329

To: COMMITTEE HEALTH
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Roger Kimura, MD, President
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Joseph Zobian, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: HB 1708 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

The HMA supports this measure as a way to help patients in emergency situations in rural and underserved communities receive the care they need.

The HMA believes that telemedicine is an excellent avenue to provide high quality psychiatric care to underserved populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - ROGER KIMURA, MD, PRESIDENT ELECT - STEVE KEMBLE, MD
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – MORRIS MITSUNAGA, MD, SECRETARY - THOMAS KOSASA, MD, TREASURER –
WALTON SHIM, MD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CHRISTOPHER FLANDERS, DO

morikawa2 - Grant

From: Danielle Bass on behalf of Rep. Ryan Yamane
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 8:45 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: FW: Hearing Notice HEARING_HLT_01-24-12_ - HI State Legislature HB 1708 Telepsychiatry

From: Jeffrey Akaka [<mailto:jakaka@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 8:20 AM
To: Rep. Ryan Yamane; Rep. Cindy Evans; Danielle Bass
Subject: Hearing Notice HEARING_HLT_01-24-12_ - HI State Legislature HB 1708 Telepsychiatry

Jeffrey Akaka, MD
President, Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association
P.O. Box 11780
Honolulu, HI 96828-0780
January 23, 2012

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. John M. Mizuno
Rep. Faye P. Hanohano
Rep. Jessica Wooley
Rep. Jo Jordan
Rep. Corinne W.L. Ching
Rep. Chris Lee
Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:
Tuesday, January 24, 2012
TIME:
10:00 a.m.
PLACE:
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB 1708
Status

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

Authorizes the emergency examination of a patient by telemedicine for the purposes of emergency hospitalization in a psychiatric facility.

Position: Support with the amendment below.

Dear Chair Yamane and members of the House Committee on Health,

Telemedicine is an important tool in providing health care, particularly in rural areas, and is being increasingly applied in many of the United States of America, including Hawaii.

Accordingly, the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association supports the intent of HB 1708, but with one reservation with respect to the proposed added language on page 2 of HB 1708, lines 12-14, which states:

“A personal examination by a licensed physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist shall be required to extend or continue a period of emergency hospitalization.”

While licensed physicians (including psychiatrists) are graduates of medical or osteopathic schools) and therefore educationally qualified to hospitalize, extend hospitalization, or discharge medically ill (including psychiatrically ill) patients from hospitals in Hawaii, psychologists who have not also completed medical or osteopathic schools, are not. There should be no inference or explicit language in state statute that could be interpreted as awarding them that authority. Continued emergency hospitalization should require evaluation by telepsychiatry by a psychiatrist consistent with Hawaii revised statutes (HRS) chapter 334.

Accordingly, in order to insure the continuation of a minimum standard of medical care for patients so ill as to require hospitalization in Hawaii, please consider amending the language of line 12-12 on page 2 to read as follows:

“A personal examination by a licensed physician shall be required to extend or continue a period of emergency hospitalization.”

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Aloha and mahalo,

Jeffrey Akaka, MD
President, Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2012 6:55 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB1708 on 1/24/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/24/2012 10:00:00 AM HB1708

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wailua Brandman APRN-Rx BC FAANP
Organization: Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)
E-mail: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Submitted on: 1/22/2012

Comments:
HB 1708 Relating to Mental Health

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Health,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, HB 1708.

HAPN supports these improvements to the statute, however, we note that Psychiatric Mental Health APRNs are not mentioned in the proposed improvements. PMH APRNs are now included in medical staff at facilities and provide primary mental health care to patients therein without MD supervision. HAPN believes that permitting these providers, as well as physicians and psychologists, to certify that their patients need emergency hospitalization in the initial and following examinations is essential to the care of their patients and will expedite processing the examinations and subsequent admission if necessary. We strongly support including these providers in the language of this bill.

We appreciate your continuing support of nursing and healthcare in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Wailua Brandman APRN-Rx BC FAANP
Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses Immediate Past President and Legislative Chair

Re: HB 1708 Relating to Mental Health

To: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Health,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, HB 1708.

HAPN supports these improvements to the statute, however, we note that Psychiatric Mental Health APRNs are not mentioned in the proposed improvements. PMH APRNs are now included in medical staff at facilities and provide primary mental health care to patients therein without MD supervision. HAPN believes that permitting these providers, as well as physicians and psychologists, to certify that their patients need emergency hospitalization in the initial and following examinations is essential to the care of their patients and will expedite processing the examinations and subsequent admission if necessary. We strongly support including these providers in the language of this bill.

We appreciate your continuing support of nursing and healthcare in Hawai`i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Terri Pacheco RN

University of Hawaii at Manoa

APHN/FNP student

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2012 7:24 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: belovedofkrsna@me.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1708 on 1/24/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/24/2012 10:00:00 AM HB1708

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elizabeth Bush
Organization: Individual
E-mail: belovedofkrsna@me.com
Submitted on: 1/22/2012

Comments:
HB 1708 Relating to Mental Health

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Health,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill, HB 1708.

HAPN supports these improvements to the statute, however, we note that Psychiatric Mental Health APRNs are not mentioned in the proposed improvements. PMH APRNs are now included in medical staff at facilities and provide primary mental health care to patients therein without MD supervision. HAPN believes that permitting these providers, as well as physicians and psychologists, to certify that their patients need emergency hospitalization in the initial and following examinations is essential to the care of their patients and will expedite processing the examinations and subsequent admission if necessary. We strongly support including these providers in the language of this bill.

We appreciate your continuing support of nursing and healthcare in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

O au me ka ha`a ha`a (I am humbly yours),

Elizabeth Bush, MSN, APRN-Rx, CARN-AP, CSAC, CCDP-D Board Certified Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurse (NP and CNS) Certified Addiction Registered Nurse, Advanced Practice Certified Substance Abuse Counselor Certified Co-Occurring Disorder Professional-Diplomate

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

<http://addictionsprofessional.com>