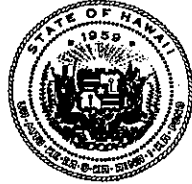


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

HB 1966, Relating to Vaccinations

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

February 7, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** Strongly Support.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The proposed legislation seeks to enact recommendations developed by the
4 Act 125(10) Task Force, which had been convened to research, assess, plan, and evaluate the potential
5 benefits and drawbacks of reducing the age restrictions that prevent children from receiving vaccines
6 from pharmacists; the most effective means to reduce such age restrictions; and whether educational or
7 certification requirements would be necessary or recommended to allow pharmacists to administer
8 vaccines to children. The Department supports these recommendations as they reflect the consensus
9 reached concerning these issues by Task Force members representing the fields of pharmacy, pediatrics,
10 and public health in the State of Hawaii.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

LATE

February 7, 2012

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

House Committee on Health

Re: HB 1966 – Relating to Vaccinations

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

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1966. This Bill will authorize pharmacists to administer influenza vaccine to persons between 14 and 17 years of age, pursuant to a valid prescription.

Keeping our members healthy through personal attention and preventive care is the cornerstone of our new model of health care delivery for our members - the patient centered medical home. Our vision is to have the primary care provider work on an individual health care regime for each of our members, including appropriate and acceptable immunizations. Taking personal responsibility and preventive measures will help minimize the opportunity for each member to endure more severe and costly health conditions.

The importance of preventive measures, including immunizations, was not better highlighted than in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While many of the other elements of the federal health care reform will not be realized until 2014, the ACA mandated preventive health services with no cost-sharing within the first six months of the ACA's enactment, September 2010. In Hawaii, the State Administration, working with the Hawaii Association of Health Plans, reenergized the statewide school-located flu vaccination program, further exemplifying the commitment to preventive health and an appropriate immunization program.

Thank you the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1966.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark K. Oto".

Mark K. Oto
Director
Government Relations