



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

HB 2563, RELATING TO THE HAWAII IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY

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

February 13, 2012, 2:15 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this administration bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None. No state funds are required to implement this proposal. The Hawai'i
3 Immunization Registry (HIR) is supported by a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4 Immunizations and Vaccines for Children grant.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The intent of this proposal is to enable health insurers access to their
6 member or subscriber data in HIR for the limited purpose of producing immunization assessment
7 reports. The ability to efficiently share the immunization data of respective members or subscribers
8 with insurers could potentially assist insurers in formulating strategies to improve immunization rates in
9 their member populations, and ultimately aid in the prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases in
10 Hawai'i.

11 The additional statutory change requested would allow for the inclusion of minimal patient
12 demographic information in HIR to enable the system to automatically identify patients that have elected
13 to refuse participation in HIR ("opt-out"). This change would prevent the inadvertent data entry or data
14 transfer of restricted information into HIR and would ensure more thorough privacy protections for
15 individuals who have elected to opt-out of HIR.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



February 13, 2012
2:15 pm
Conference Room 325

To: The Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

From: Paula Arcena, Director of Public Policy
Robert Toyofuku, Government Affairs

Re: HB2563 Relating to the Hawaii Immunization Registry

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

AlohaCare **supports** HB2563, which would allow health insurers to access immunization data of our health plan members from the Hawaii Immunization Registry. Currently, health plans are not allowed access to the registry.

As you are aware, immunizations are an important preventive health measure and have been made more accessible outside the confines of a provider's clinic. The Department of Health's Stop Flu in School program is an example of significantly increasing access to childhood immunization by bringing flu shots to school campuses during school hours to provide easy access.

As a Medicaid health plan, AlohaCare is judged for its ability to make health care services, such as immunizations, available to its members. Allowing health plan to have access to the Immunization Registry will allow us to better assess the needs of our members and how we can best meet them.

AlohaCare is a non-profit, Hawaii based health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's community health centers to serve low-income families and medically vulnerable members of our community through government sponsored health insurance programs. We serve beneficiaries of Medicaid and Medicare on all islands.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony for HB2563 on 2/13/2012 2:15:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 3:51 PM

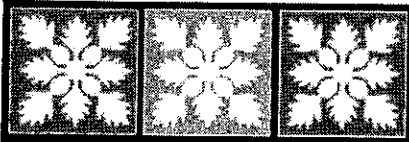
To: CPCtestimony

Cc: ksthay@aap.net

Testimony for CPC 2/13/2012 2:15:00 PM HB2563

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kathryn Sthay
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ksthay@aap.net
Submitted on: 2/10/2012

Comments:



Hawaii Association of Health Plans

February 13, 2012

The Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: HB 2563 – Relating to the Hawaii Immunization Registry

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

My name is Richard Jackson and I am chair of the Public Policy Committee of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP). HAHP is a non-profit organization consisting of eight (8) member organizations: AlohaCare, HMAA, HMSA, HWMG, Kaiser Permanente, MDX Hawai'i, UHA, and UnitedHealthcare. Our mission is to promote initiatives aimed at improving the overall health of Hawaii. HAHP is also active participants in the legislative process. Before providing any testimony, all HAHP member organizations must be in unanimous agreement of the statement or position.

HAHP appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2563 which will allow health plans to access the immunization registry in order to generate immunization assessment reports. These immunization assessment reports will provide information on which vaccines a member has received or are overdue, as well as allow the plans to monitor and improve the health of its members.

As the Committee may already know, the Department of Health's Stop Flu at School is a vaccination program that supplies the influenza vaccine at participating schools statewide. This \$1 million plus annual program lost Federal support this year. HAHP's newly announced financial support of the Stop Flu at School program will permit this program to continue, and HAHP feels that it is imperative that health plans have access to the immunization registry so that we have an accurate medical record for each of our insured keiki, as well as for our adult members. In order to comply with the program's vaccine ordering and accountability procedures, it is important that our member organizations are able to see how many of our members participate in the program so we can better prepare for the future.

We believe that by giving health plans access to the immunization registry, we will better be able to advocate for preventative care and the health of our members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Richard Jackson
Chair
Public Policy Committee

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 13, 2012

The Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Re: HB 2563 – Relating to the Hawaii Immunization Registry

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

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2563. This Bill will authorize health plans access to the immunization registry specifically for the purpose of generating immunization assessment reports so that we may help our members maintain better health conditions and prevent more dangerous and costly episodes of illness.

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.

In conjunction with this health care model, we now have incorporated incentives for providers who have met measures of success in helping our members improve their health status through preventive steps. Having access to the immunization registry is a critical factor in measuring that success.

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 2563. We appreciate the State Administration's understanding of the importance of this measure, and your favorable consideration also is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations