



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

HB 2563, RELATING TO THE HAWAII IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY

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

January 31, 2012, 9:00 a.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.



January 31, 2012
9:00 am
Conference Room 329

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

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.

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

January 31, 2012

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

House Committee on Health

Re: HB 2563 – Relating to the Hawaii Immunization Registry

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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JDiesman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations