

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

January 28, 2011

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

House Committee on Health

Re: HB 598 – Relating to Emergency On-Call Physicians

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 598 which would establish tax credits for physicians providing on-call emergency services based on a percentage of their medical malpractice premium.

Hawaii as well as the rest of the nation, continues to face a shortage of qualified health professionals, especially in rural areas. This also translates to less physicians willing to provide on-call services for emergency rooms. Without the availability of these physicians, mostly specialists, the health and well-being of those in need of vital services will be greatly impacted.

The language of HB 598 would provide an incentive, in the form of a tax credit, to ER physicians willing to provide much needed on-call services. We support this proposal which could help to alleviate a growing problem across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations