



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Conference Room 329
March 22, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Supporting SB 1106 SD 1.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. Our members employ more than 40,000 people statewide, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 1106 SD 1, which creates a workplace wellness pilot project.

Increases in healthcare premiums continue to outpace the growth in employee wages, consuming an ever-growing portion of a family's income. Healthcare now consumes one-sixth of our nation's gross domestic product.

In response to this phenomenon, employers around the nation have begun to develop wellness programs in order to slow cost trends. For example, the Canadian government's Employee Wellness Program return on investment was \$1.95 to \$3.75 per employee per dollar spent. Similarly, studies on U.S. companies such as General Mills and Johnson and Johnson show that those companies had a median return of \$3 for every \$1 spent on the program according to an interview with General Mills Director of Global Health, Dr. Julia Halberg.

National employers such as Safeway and IBM have been cited in numerous publications for their successful efforts in improving employee health, while at the same time constraining their health care budgets. The reasons for their support of wellness programs are simple: healthy employees tend to experience a better quality of life and higher personal productivity, and those who discover health problems early tend to get well faster and spend less on medical care.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports SB 1106 SD 1.

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From: Hardy Spoehr [HSpoehr@papaolalokahi.org]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 7:13 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony: Tuesday, March 22, 2011

TESTIMONY: SB 1106, SD1, Relating to Wellness

Tuesday, march 22, 2011
9:00am
Conference Room 329
State Capitol

Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, supports this legislation. We would only suggest that the Department of Health or whomever is implementing this legislation confer with Papa Ola Lokahi on a current worksite wellness program entered into by various Hawaiian organizations as it may prove useful in planning this initiative.

Thank you

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