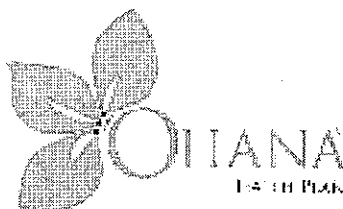


LATE



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Thursday, February 10, 2011

To: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Joshua B. Green, M.D.
Chair, Senate Committee on Health

From: 'Ohana Health Plan

Re: Senate Bill 1468 - Relating to Health

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2011, 1:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

Since February 2009, 'Ohana Health Plan has provided services under the Hawai'i QUEST Expanded Access (QExA) program. 'Ohana is managed by a local team of experienced health care professionals who embrace cultural diversity, advocate preventative care and facilitate communications between members and providers. Our philosophy is to place members and their families at the center of the health care continuum.

'Ohana Health Plan is offered by WellCare Health Insurance of Arizona, Inc. WellCare provides managed care services exclusively for government-sponsored health care programs serving approximately 2.3 million Medicaid and Medicare members nationwide. 'Ohana has utilized WellCare's national experience to develop an 'Ohana care model that addresses local members' healthcare and health coordination needs.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit these comments on Senate Bill 1468 – Relating to Health.

While we appreciate the intent of this measure to develop a system of delivering comprehensive, integrated, and holistic health care services to patients, including preventative and lifestyle health services, while drawing down an enhanced 90% federal match. We feel that the concept has not yet been fully developed and implementation of such a robust and comprehensive project at this time would not allow it to reap its full potential as there are still many issues that need to be worked out.

For example, many of the existing health plans are doing similar models of care. Additionally, the parameters of this program are very similarly modeled after the structure and services included under the state's QUEST Expanded Access (QExA) program, which now after two years of going live are able to show positive results of increased health quality and cost savings to the state.

The mandated implementation of this program would essentially create a program similar to what the state is already doing for its low-income aged, blind and disabled population and could potentially divert the already stretched budget for the Department of Human Services (DHS), who are asking for an emergency appropriation of \$57.5 million just to ensure payments for this fiscal year alone.

While we oppose the mandated implementation of a Hawai'i patient-centered health home pilot project within the Medicaid program, we do support Section 3 of this bill to establish a Hawai'i Medicaid Modernization and Innovational Council to further discuss how to best develop and implement a quality-driven health care delivery system using cost-effective mechanisms. It is the first and perhaps most important step we can take at this time to move health care in Hawai'i in the right direction.

We respectfully request that the bill be amended to be limited to Section 3 only. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on this measure.

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 9:05 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: tenoriov001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB1468 on 2/10/2011 1:15:00 PM

Categories: Blue Category

Testimony for HMS/HTH 2/10/2011 1:15:00 PM SB1468

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: vince Tenorio
Organization: Individual
Address: Nalii street waipahu, HI
Phone: 808 6717072
E-mail: tenoriov001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:

I support SB1468. I does propose identified health care provided in this bill. I am a physician assistant. We physician assistants also have much to contribute in health care. I am proposing an amendent to include Physician Asssistants in SB1468



AlohaCare

For a healthy Hawaii.

LATE

February 10, 2011
1:15pm
Conference Room 016

To: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on health

From: Paula Arcena, Public Policy Director

Re: SB1468 Relating to Health

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB1468, which establishes the Hawaii patient centered health home pilot program; establishes the Hawaii Medicaid Modernization and Innovation Council to design and implement the program.

AlohaCare supports SB1468.

The patient centered medical home (PCMH) is a concept that maximizes the benefits of coordinated primary and preventive care to meet patient needs. Like other Hawaii health care organizations, AlohaCare has initiated a PCMH pilot project. AlohaCare's pilot project involves four community health centers, three on Oahu and one in West Hawaii. The PCMH concept is flexible and adaptable to different patient populations and regions, therefore we believe multiple efforts are necessary. Thus, we support the creation of a Council specifically to address the future needs of Hawaii's Medicaid population, including but not limited to the PCMH concept.

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.

AlohaCare has been contracted by the Hawaii Department of Human Services since the QUEST program started in 1994 to provide insurance coverage for Medicaid eligible beneficiaries through the QUEST program. We serve approximately 75,000 QUEST enrollees statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

Health Committee
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Dan Morris, PA-C

Tuesday, February 8, 2010

Support of SB 1468: Relating to Patient Centered Health Homes and the Hawaii
Medicaid Modernization and Innovation Council

Honorable Chairpersons and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Academy of Physician Assistants (HAPA) supports SB 1468, with amendments, which will establish a Hawaii Medicaid Modernization and Innovation council to establish a Patient Centered Health Home pilot program within the Medicaid program. HAPA believes that physician assistants (PAs), long standing members of Hawaii's Primary Health Care workforce, should be specifically identified as a part of the overseeing Council and have included an amendment to this effect.

The bill lists members of the Home Care Team which includes Ambulatory Care Providers. HAPA interprets this language to include physician assistants as Ambulatory Care Providers without specifically naming physician assistants as part of the team. The National Committee on Quality Assurance, NCQA, has included PAs, and PA-led clinics, as a part of its definition of the Patient Centered Medical Home. HAPA feels that due to provider shortages in rural areas of Hawaii that the state of Hawaii would benefit from similar policies as it develops its Medical Home Team definitions.

We ask your support in passing SB 1468 with the attached amendment. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dan Morris, PA-C