



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Friday, February 10, 2012

2:45 p.m.

Conference Room 229

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Roger Kimura, MD, President
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Joseph Zobian, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: SB 2091 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association supports this measure. This bill provides needed voice from health care providers on the prepaid health advisory council.

Health care providers have direct experience with how health plan coverage affects their patients' ability to live healthy lives. Provider input is always necessary when assessing how patients can be best served by our medical system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice-Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

February 10, 2012 – 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Regarding S.B. 2091, Relating to Health Care

Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paula Yoshioka, and I am the Senior Vice President for The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I am testifying for QHS in strong support for S.B. 2091, Relating to Health Care, which will add representatives of health care provider organizations to the prepaid health care advisory council.

Currently, the Prepaid Health Care Advisory Council is required by law to include representatives of the medical and public health care professions, consumer interests, and those experienced in prepaid health care. Health care organizations, however, are not required to be represented, despite being a major stakeholder in Hawaii's health landscape. Including the representation of health care organizations on the Council would provide a critical perspective and enhance the important work of the Council.

Thank for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair

Conference Room 229
February 10, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

Supporting SB 2091: Relating to Health Care
SB 2230: Relating to Health Care

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. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 40,000 people. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2091 and SB 2230, both of which add representatives of health care provider organizations to the Prepaid Health Care Advisory Council. The effect of both bills is identical.

Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act (PHCA) requires all health care plans to be approved by the Director of Labor as meeting prescribed minimum standards. Such determination is made under the advisement of a seven-member Prepaid Health Care Advisory Council.

In recent years, health plans have been approved that increase cost sharing, which affects access to care. For example, a recent study shows that the "high cost sharing delays the initiation of drug therapy for patients newly diagnosed with chronic disease. . . . [P]olicy makers and physicians should consider the effects of benefits design on patient behavior to encourage the adoption of necessary care." ("Cost Sharing and the Initiation of Drug Therapy for the Chronically Ill," Archives of Internal Medicine, 2009)

Currently, the Prepaid Health Care Advisory Council is required by law to include representatives of the medical and public health care professions, consumer interests, and those experienced in prepaid health care. Health care organizations are not represented -- and are not required to be represented -- despite being a major stakeholder in maintaining the health of our communities. Requiring the representation of health care organizations on the Council and increasing its size to from seven to nine would add a critical perspective without compromising the positions of existing members.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports SB 2091 and SB 2230.

Testimony for HTH 2/10/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2091

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Brenda Kosky

Organization: Individual

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Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments: