



## **HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER**

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone/TTY: (808) 949-2922 Toll Free: 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928

E-mail: [info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org](mailto:info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org) Website: [www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org](http://www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org)

### **THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2012**

#### **Committee on Ways and Means Testimony in Support of S.B. 2120 Relating To Health Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 9:15 A.M. Conference Room 211**

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center testifies in support of this bill.

The purpose of the bill is to provide increased Medicaid reimbursement rates to physicians who treat QUEST and QUEST Expanded Access patients. We believe that it is important to provide this at a level which will fairly compensate them and create sufficient incentives to provide the care that these recipients require. We have heard anecdotally of problems of shortages of physicians in certain areas of the state as well as physicians who were reluctant to treat Medicaid patients because of the low reimbursement.

To the extent that physicians can receive reimbursements that more realistically reflect the level of care that is required for their patient, the easier it should be to find an appropriate number of physicians who are willing to participate in these programs. The QUEST and QUEST Expanded Access programs are only as good and effective as the quality and quantity of providers with whom they can contract to provide services. Since higher reimbursements will make both of these more likely, we are in full support of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.







**HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

Date: Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Time: 9:15 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, 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 2120 RELATING TO HEALTH

In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association supports this measure.

The HMA agrees that Medicaid is the cornerstone of health care for the most needy individuals in Hawaii. It is in the public interest to ensure that health care payments made with state funds or controlled by the State are sufficient to cover the actual costs of care. Inadequate reimbursement from Medicaid has compromised access to medical care because Hawaii has a high percentage of independent physicians who have no other means of making ends meet than by ensuring that the payments that they receive cover the cost of the services they provide.

As documented in numerous media reports, the inadequacy of medical care services, especially in specialty-care coverage in rural areas and on the neighbor islands, has reached a critical level. Hawaii's physicians serving Medicaid-eligible persons have been adversely affected by the inadequacy of Medicaid reimbursements and as a result there is a severe access to care crisis for the Medicaid population. This measure will go a long way to help serve Hawaii's most needy patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT - ROGER KIMURA, MD, PRESIDENT ELECT - STEVE KEMBLE, MD**

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – MORRIS MITSUNAGA, MD, SECRETARY - THOMAS KOSASA, MD, TREASURER – WALTON SHIM, MD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CHRISTOPHER FLANDERS, DO**