



Hawaii Association of Health Plans

March 20, 2012

LATE

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

House Committee on Health

Re: SB 2229 SD2 – Relating to Vaccinations

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Richard Jackson and I am chair of the Public Policy Committee of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP). HAHP is a non-profit organization consisting of eight (8) member organizations: AlohaCare, HMAA, HMSA, HWMG, Kaiser Permanente, MDX Hawai'i, UHA, and UnitedHealthcare. Our mission is to promote initiatives aimed at improving the overall health of Hawaii. HAHP is also an active participant in the legislative process. Before providing any testimony, all HAHP member organizations must be in unanimous agreement of the statement or position.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2229 SD2 which would allow pharmacists to administer the influenza vaccine to patients aged fourteen to seventeen, per a physician's prescription.

HAHP understands the importance of preventative care, and we have committed to working with the State Administration to financially support the Stop Flu at School Program (SFAS). SFAS is a vaccination program that supplies the influenza vaccine at participating schools statewide, and its intent is to increase access to inoculation against influenza.

Similarly, we believe that by allowing pharmacists to provide the vaccine under physician's orders, more children will be able to receive the vaccine. These preventative measures will help ensure the health of our keiki and help prevent the more severe health issues that can arise from instances of influenza. We also support the added provision of requiring pharmacists to complete the necessary accredited training program in order to administer the vaccine.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of this measure today.

Sincerely,

Richard Jackson
Chair, Public Policy Committee