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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2013

Friday, February 1, 2013  
8:30 a.m.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1220 – RELATING TO PEDIATRIC DENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner (“Commissioner”), testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”). The Department takes no position on the bill.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the definition of “qualified plan” in Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) § 435H-1 to include pediatric dental benefits.

Pediatric services are part of the essential health benefits under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The Department is supportive of all children in Hawaii having pediatric dental benefits coverage. However, a recent federal regulation allows for health insurers selling on the health insurance exchange (Hawaii Health Connector) to offer a health plan which does not contain pediatric dental benefits. This bill would require all health plans to offer pediatric dental regardless of whether it is sold on the Hawaii Health Connector or outside of the Hawaii Health Connector. This requirement should be reviewed to see if this would be considered a

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new mandated benefit that trigger section 1311(d) (3) of PPACA, which requires states to defray the additional cost of any benefits in excess of the essential health benefits of the state's qualified health plan.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.