

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Rep. Aaron Johanson, Vice Chair

HEARING

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2013
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: Conf Rm 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs, and committee members:

Allow me to submit testimony on this bill on behalf of the Hawaii State Chiropractic Association. The HSCA fully **supports** this bill and has done so for the past many sessions that this subject has been introduced. I am the current President and Executive Director of the HSCA.

We have been waiting since the legislature's own LRB study concluded in 2007 that the work comp fee schedule fixed at 110% of the Medicare RBRVS was inadequate to reimburse providers of service for the work they do. Since 2007, our economic picture has changed and grown dramatically, but our work comp reimbursement rate has remained stagnant. The LRB study summarized that the fee of 110% of Medicare was inadequate even in 2007, and recommended that it be raised to 130% of Medicare. In the last 5 years, the legislature has failed to act on the LRB's recommendation. In addition, the Medicare RBRVS has not kept up with the cost of living or the cost of doing business, compounding the problem faced by providers today.

Medicare should never have been the model on which to base work comp reimbursements because the demographic populations are so very different, as are the causes of their need for care. Medicare beneficiaries and work injured employees have little in common and a fee based on the former does not compensate providers adequately for the care of the latter.

The HSCA urges the legislature to finally recognize this problem as one needing remedy. Too much time has gone by and too much has already been lost: for providers and for injured workers. Please pass HB 152 without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Saito". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Dr. Gary Saito
President and Executive Director
Hawaii State Chiropractic Association