



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
January 29, 2014, 8:45 a.m., Room 329

House Bill 2530, RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH CONNECTOR

Comments

Presented by Beth Giesting, Healthcare Transformation Coordinator, Office of the Governor

Speaking on behalf of the Abercrombie Administration, thank you for your concern about the success and sustainability of the Hawaii Health Connector. We share that concern.

We appreciate the need to change the composition of the Hawaii Health Connector's board from time to time to reflect changing circumstances. We have no position on this measure at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



The Honorable Della Au Belatti
Chair, Committee on Health

Re: Testimony regarding H.B. 2530, Relating to the Hawai'i Health Connector.

Hearing scheduled for January 29, 2014, at 8:45 a.m.

Chair Belatti and members of the Committee on Health,

My name is Tom Matsuda, Interim Executive Director of the Hawai'i Health Connector (the "Connector"), speaking on behalf of the Connector and its Board of Directors.

At this time, the Connector's Board of Directors is very involved in providing oversight and policy guidance to the Connector organization during a critical period. The current Board has considerable knowledge about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, state law issues including the Prepaid Health Care Act, the state-based marketplace and the IT system supporting it, the insurance market in this state, the needs of consumers, and other areas that are important to the Connector's operations. Most of the current Board has been in place since at least mid-2012, which has given them very important experience and perspective on the issues facing the Connector now and in the future.

To preserve continuity and expertise during a period when informed Board guidance is so important, the Board prefers to maintain the existing positions, designations and membership of the Board of Directors. If any current Board members decide to leave the Board or not renew their appointments, then the Board prefers that any vacancies be filled under the existing guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2530.



To: Committee on Health
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Date: January 29, 2014, Conference Room 329, 8:45 a.m.

Re: **HB 2530 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH CONNECTOR**

Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP fights on issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; providing the tools needed to save for retirement; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

AARP supports HB 2530 - Relating to the Hawaii Health Connector. This bill lowers the number of Board members; removes insurers and dental providers from the board; requires all but one of state agency representatives to be ex officio non-voting members; and establishes procedures for filling vacancies.

1. AARP strongly supports the proposal that lowers the number of board members by excluding insurers and dental benefit providers from the board. AARP has consistently testified at board meetings about conflict of interest concerns as conflicted board members have unduly influenced board voting on issues. While public and media scrutiny at recent board meetings caused board members to abstain from voting, they were nevertheless allowed to deliberate on issues. Excluding insurers and dental providers will reduce conflict of interest concerns.
2. AARP supports the establishment of a subcommittee or advisory committee consisting of insurers and dental benefit providers. All Hawaii insurers and dental providers, including those not currently represented should be on the subcommittee or advisory committee.
3. AARP recommends that transparency provisions should also apply to standing committees, in that public notice of meetings and meeting minutes should be posted on the Connector's website.

We urge you to support HB 2530.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony to the House Committee on Health
Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 8:45 A.M.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 2530 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH
CONNECTOR**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** HB 2530 Relating to the Hawaii Health Connector.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This bill seeks to remove members representing insurers and dental benefit providers on the board of directors for the Hawaii health connector. We believe that the members representing health insurers and dental benefit providers should not be removed from the board.

First, our understanding in the creation of the board was to make a broad mix of community members and stakeholders to be a part of the decision making process. There are a total of 15 members with only 3 being from the insurance industry. We see no reason why they should be removed or how this helps the Exchange's sustainability as set forth at the beginning of this bill.

Second, the Affordable Care Act is over 22,000 pages of rules and is intertwined with many other facets of federal and state law. It is very complicated and very fluid. The board, in making these decisions both in full committee and executive committee, needs to have all the pertinent information before making decisions. All stakeholders need to be part of the discussion, including insurers. Insurers have the knowledge and resources and deal with this topic almost every day. The other board members who bring different expertise can benefit from this insight and at the same time make their own independent decisions.

Thirdly, to sustain the operation of this endeavor we believe that the board as a whole should stay intact. This includes keeping all the state members on the committee as well. They each bring a perspective on the health care industry. For this and other reasons we ask that you hold this bill in committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

LATE

House Committee on Health

The Hon. Della Au Belatti, Chair

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 2530

Relating to Hawaii Health Connector

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

January, 29, 2014, 8:45 am, Room 329

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, would like to offer comments on House Bill 2530, which seeks to alter the board composition of the Hawaii Health Connector.

The HPCA supports the intent of this measure, which is to keep the Hawaii Health Connector as a free standing non-profit organization and remove insurers and many state officials as voting board members. However, the HPCA has concerns about the financial sustainability of the Hawaii Health Connector and would ask that additional measures be implemented to assess and plan for such considerations moving forward.

The HPCA thanks you for the opportunity to offer these comments and urges you to move the bill forward for further consideration.

HB2530

Submitted on: 1/29/2014

Testimony for HLT on Jan 29, 2014 08:45AM in Conference Room 329



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Wall	Community Alliance for Mental Health	Support	No

Comments: to: House Health Aloha Chair Belatti and the members of the committee, On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we strongly support the passage of HB2530. It was an error in the first place to allow representatives of insurers to sit on the Hawai'i Health Connectors Board. The passage of HB2430 will correct that error. Scott Wall VP/Legislative Advocate Community Alliance for Mental Health

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 2:38 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2530 on Jan 29, 2014 08:45AM

HB2530

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for HLT on Jan 29, 2014 08:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is imperative this entity serve the public good. Limiting the number of Board members will allow timely decision-making. I urge you to support this bill. Mahalo for allowing me to submit this testimony.

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HB2530

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for HLT on Jan 29, 2014 08:45AM in Conference Room 329

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support removal of any persons associated with insurers from board

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