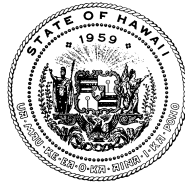


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

HB877, RELATING TO THE DESIGNEES FOR THE DIRECTORS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, OF HEALTH, OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE.

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health
February 1, 2013**

1 **Department's Position:** Strong Support.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill is part of the Governor's Administrative Package, the purpose of
4 which is to allow designees to represent directors of state agencies for purposes of conducting oversight
5 of the Hawaii Health Insurance Exchange, also known as the Hawaii Health Connector.

6

7 This bill provides the necessary flexibility for the Department of Health, among others previously
8 named in statute, to address multiple priorities in an effective and efficient manner, while sustaining the
9 momentum of the implementation of the State's insurance exchange.

10

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.



The Honorable Della Au Belatti
Chair, Committee on Health

Re: Testimony regarding HB 877 Relating to the Designees for the Directors of the Departments of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, of Health, of Human Services, and of Labor and Industrial Relations for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Insurance Exchange

Chair Belatti, and members of the Committee on Health,

My name is Hardy Spoehr, Chair of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Hawaii Health Connector (the "Connector"). HB 877, will allow the Directors of the Hawaii state departments who serve on the Board pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 435H to select designees to attend board meetings in their place. This bill will facilitate the efforts of the Board to meet challenging deadlines imposed on the Connector under the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

By way of background, the Connector was established in 2011 by Act 205 to serve as the State's affordable health insurance exchange pursuant to §1311 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010. Affordable health insurance exchanges offer qualified health plans to qualified individuals and employers through internet websites, and maintain toll-free hot lines, in-person assisters, and navigators to assist qualified individuals and employers in obtaining and utilizing their qualified health plans. The Connector's internet website goes live on October 1, 2013 to offer qualified health plans for 2014.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Health

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair

The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Testimony on House Bill 877

**RELATING TO THE DESIGNEES FOR THE DIRECTORS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, OF HEALTH, OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND OF
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
HAWAII HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE**

**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer
Friday, February 3, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 329**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association supports the intent of House Bill 877 with a suggested amendment. Health insurance exchanges play a critical role in implementing provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

Two years ago, Hawaii was one of the first states to embark on the journey of establishing and running a state run health insurance exchange. Hawaii's health insurance exchange, the Hawaii Health Connector, is a non-profit with a diverse board representing consumers, employers, insurers, and the public sector. As with any non-profit, there are quorum challenges along the way. Every member of the board brings a valuable perspective and each member's participation should be equally valued. It's important that the Hawaii Health Connector board have the flexibility and continuity it needs to carry out their responsibilities. No one member's vote is more critical or important than another, and so we respectfully request that all board members be afforded the opportunity, set forth in this bill for state department directors, to select a designee for a specified meeting or meetings.

We offer the following language for consideration; beginning on line 11, page 1:

“~~[The director of commerce and consumer affairs, the director of health, the director of human services, and the director of labor and industrial relations]~~ Any member of the board of directors may select a designee for a specified meeting or meetings. Such selection of the designee shall be submitted in writing to the board of directors prior to or at the meeting in which the designee will serve.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.