



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

H.C.R. 16, Requesting the Department of Health to Establish a Task Force to Study the Potential Benefits of Teledentistry for the Vulnerable and Underserved Populations, Such as Access to Dental Care and Cost Efficiencies, and to Identify the Barriers to the Practice of Teledentistry in Hawaii

Testimony of Lynn N. Fallin
Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Administration

February 26, 2014

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly support this resolution.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This resolution will serve to facilitate the discussion and study of the
4 potential benefits of teledentistry for the vulnerable and underserved populations, and to identify the
5 barriers to the practice teledentistry in Hawaii through a task force that will be represented by a diverse
6 spectrum of stakeholders.

7 The Department strongly believes the use of teledentistry to deliver oral health services through existing
8 technologies can enhance the ability of the oral health care system by reaching the vulnerable and
9 underserved populations that reside in areas that lack access to oral health care and specialty services.

10 Teledentistry can help address Hawaii's unique geographic barriers (five main islands) to access oral
11 health care where the majority of oral health care professionals, including specialists, reside and work on
12 the island of Oahu.

1 Teledentistry also allows oral health professionals to adopt and implement a new care delivery model
2 that provides the vulnerable and underserved populations access to oral health services in their own
3 communities. It will help remove barriers and provide another option to receive oral health outside the
4 traditional office setting. This new model can be an effective means to improve the access to oral health
5 care in Hawaii.

6 The Department strongly supports this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony
7 on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 26, 2014

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Au Belatti and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HCR 16 – Relating to Teledentistry

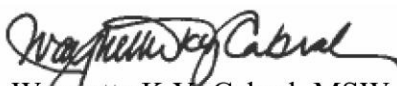
The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HCR 16**. The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to allow the Department of Health (DOH) to establish a task force to study the potential benefits of teledentistry for the vulnerable and underserved populations, such as access to dental care and cost efficiencies, and identify barriers to the practice of teledentistry in the State of Hawaii.

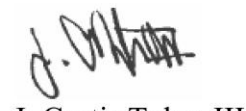
The Council notes that Teledentistry can be an effective way to improve access to oral health care. This new care delivery model can provide a much needed community based "virtual dental home" for the State's most vulnerable and underserved populations who would be able to access dental services in their own communities. It also will remove some of the barriers to receiving care in a traditional dental office setting. This model allows dentists and dental hygienists working in community sites to connect with a dental home in private dentists' offices and in public health settings.

We are responsible for the development and implementation of a Five-Year State Plan. Our current State Plan (FY 2012-2016) includes a Goal, "People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have access to physical and mental health, and medical and dental care, providing opportunities to ensure and maintain their quality of life and ability to provide their own care." This concurrent resolution would not only assist in the delivery of enhanced statewide dental care services but provide a segway into telemedicine.

We welcome the opportunity to participate as a member of the task force. Thank you for the opportunity to offer our **support of HCR 16**.

Sincerely,


Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator


J. Curtis Tyler, III
Chair



HPCA

HAWAI'I PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

LATE

House Committee on Health

The Hon. Della Au Belatti, Chair

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Testimony on HCR 16

Relating to Dental Health

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 26, 2014, 10:00 am, Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, supports House Concurrent Resolution 16, which seeks to establish a task force to study the potential health benefits of teledentistry for the vulnerable and underserved populations.

In Hawaii, the rate of tooth decay in children is twice as high as that of children living on the mainland. As a point of reference, over 94 percent of mainland six year olds are entirely free from cavities, while only 19 percent of six year olds in Hawaii are cavity-free. Later in life, health care research points to associations between chronic oral infections and diabetes, heart and lung disease, stroke, and low-birth-weight births—conditions that are more complicated and costly to treat than effective, timely oral health care.

Given the unique geographic makeup of Hawaii, there is a growing demand for teledentistry services. We would welcome the discussion this bill creates and look forward to working with the other named participants. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.