



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HCR21, REQUESTING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE HAWAII HEALTH CARE PROJECT AND THE HAWAII HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE TO IMPLEMENT AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE, INTEGRATED, TECHNOLOGY-BASED HEALTHCARE INFORMATION SYSTEM

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

March 1, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of House Concurrent Resolution 21 is to encourage the State
4 to support the efforts of the Hawaii Health Care Project (HHCP) and the Hawaii Health Information
5 Exchange (HHIE) to implement an integrated, technology-based healthcare information system. The
6 resolution requests that all state agencies that collect and maintain healthcare-related data and
7 information cooperate with the HHCP and HHIE's effort to develop and implement the technology-
8 based healthcare information system.

9 The Department supports this bill as a part of the comprehensive package of legislation
10 developed by the Childhood Obesity Prevention Task Force. The Task Force was created on July 6,
11 2012 as Senate Bill 2778 and signed into law as Act 269 by Governor Abercrombie to address the
12 growing crisis of childhood obesity in Hawaii. The task force identified twelve policy recommendations
13 that when implemented together, have the potential to reshape the environments in Hawaii where people

1 live, work, play, and learn. HCR21 is one of the twelve recommended policies from the Task Force.

2 The efforts of the HHIE complement the mission of the Department to protect and improve the
3 health and environment for all people in Hawaii. To achieve the mission, the Department relies on
4 science-based decision-making and evidence-based practices. The Department is working with the
5 HHIE to enhance integration, monitoring, and surveillance capabilities, and to improve the efficiency
6 and quality of patient care and public health response.

7 The Department supports passage of HCR21. Thank you for the opportunity to provide
8 testimony.

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HMSA



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March 1, 2013

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

Re: HCR 21 - Requesting the State of Hawaii to Support the Efforts of the Hawaii Health Care Project and the Hawaii Health Information Exchange to Implement an Efficient and Effective, Integrated, Technology-Based Healthcare Information System

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HCR 21 which calls for the Hawaii Health Care Project and Hawaii Health Information Exchange (HHIE) to ensure an integrated technology-based healthcare information system is developed and maintained under a public-private partnership. HMSA supports this Resolution.

As a participant in the Hawaii Health Care Project (HHCP), HMSA is committed to the State's goal of reinventing Hawaii's health care system into a cost-efficient, patient-centered system. Critical to Hawaii's success in creating that efficient health care system is the need for each individual's health care information to be efficiently shared amongst those persons and entities involved with the individual's health care. However, that efficiency must be balanced against the imperative to protect the individual's privacy.

That is why HMSA also is an active participant in the HHIE, the State-recognized non-profit corporation tasked with implementing a statewide information technology architecture that will allow those involved with an individual's health care, to share health care information while ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of that information, in accordance with the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act.

We believe the coordinated effort between the HHCP and the HHIE is paramount to the State's health care system transformation. And, we believe it is imperative for all parties that have an interest in sharing patient information, both private and public, must commit to its success.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of this Resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark K. Oto".

Mark K. Oto
Director
Government Relations