

**SB1264**

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY**



Senate Committee on Health  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Wednesday, February 6, 2013 / 1:15 PM  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229

Senate Bill 1264, Relating to Voluntary Wellness Programs

Aloha Chair Green, Chair Hee, Vice Chair Baker, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committees. On behalf of the Society for Human Resource Management – Hawai'i Chapter (SHRM Hawai'i) I am providing testimony in support of Senate Bill 1264.

SB 1264 allows healthcare insurers, employers and Medicaid programs to offer voluntary wellness programs. Establishes what a wellness program may and may not use as rewards or incentives for participation in a wellness program. Protects confidentiality of participants in a wellness program.

Human resource professionals are responsible for businesses' most valuable asset: people. As such, we are keenly aware of the needs of both employers and employees; we truly have everyone's best interest at heart. Wellness programs can help reduce behaviors that have a negative impact on health outcomes while simultaneously promoting positive lifestyles.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HPCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**Senate Committee on Health**

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

The Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair

The Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

The Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

The Hon. Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

**Testimony on Senate Bill 1264**

**Relating to Voluntary Wellness Programs**

**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer**

**February 06, 2013, 1:15 PM, Room 229**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, supports Senate Bill 1264, Relating to Voluntary Wellness Programs.

One of the underlying sentiments of the Affordable Care Act was to encourage and motivate healthy behaviors in American citizens. A big piece of that was to create voluntary health and wellness programs that would incentivize individuals to choose healthier lifestyles though. In the time since the passage of the Act though, some programs have begun to employ mandatory participation requirements and punitive results for those that don't reach certain expected standards.

The HPCA supports removing mandatory requirements from such plans and clearly delineating what may and may not be used as program incentives. While we do support the use of and participation in wellness programs, such actions must be made voluntarily, in the best interest of the individual and in the spirit of the ACA.

We thank you for this opportunity to testify.