

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, February 25, 2013 at 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol - Conference Room 016**

**RE: SENATE BILL 1337 SD 1 RELATING TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS
PROGRAMS**

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 1337 SD 1 Relating to Health and Wellness Programs.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1000 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.

Health insurance premiums, as mandated by the Prepaid Healthcare law, are a rising and uncontrollable cost for business. Many employers pay 90-100% of the total health insurance premium. Health wellness and prevention are a critical component in keeping employees healthy and addressing health care costs. We believe that this law will help programs to encourage healthy behavior.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.