



## HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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TO:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 3, 2014

TIME: 2:05 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 308

RE: SB 2469 RELATING TO TELEHEALTH

Position: Support

This measure requires reimbursement for services provided through telehealth to be equivalent to reimbursement for the same services provided via face-to-face contact between a health care provider and a patient. Clarifies that a health care provider of telehealth includes primary care providers, mental health providers, and oral health providers such as physicians and osteopathic physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, psychologists, and dentists. This measure amends references to "telemedicine" in the Hawaii Revised Statutes to "telehealth" for consistency.

HMA supports this measure on behalf of our neighbor island patients who rely on telehealth to maintain a regular relationship with their treating physician. Telehealth can be an important tool if used properly. HMA advises that a previous face-to-face consultation between the patient and the provider take place before a telehealth relationship is used to care for the patient.

The HMA also strongly supports provider to provider consultation via telehealth. Often times a patient will have a primary care provider on the island that they live on and a specialist that lives on Oahu. Telehealth allows these two providers to interact with the patient at one time. Provider to provider consultation is very important for patients that see providers on more than one island and can be extremely helpful in an emergency medical situation.

We find the description of providers of telehealth is confusing because physicians seem to be listed as oral health providers. We would recommend amending the language in multiple parts of the bill to be more in line with this:

*Officers*

*President - Walton Shim, MD    President-Elect – Robert Sloan, MD  
Secretary - Thomas Kosasa, MD    Immediate Past President – Stephen Kemble, MD  
Treasurer – Brandon Lee, MD    Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO*

*Clarify that a health care provider of telehealth includes primary care providers, mental health providers, oral health providers, physicians and osteopathic physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, psychologists, and dentists; and*

Thank you for introducing this bill and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2014

Thursday, April 3, 2014  
2:05 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2469, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, RELATING TO  
TELEHEALTH.**

TO THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Constance Cabral, and I am one of the Executive Officers of the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). The Board has no objections to SECTIONS 7 and 8 of this bill and takes no position on the other SECTIONS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2469, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.

**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 03, 2014 4:14 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** beth.giesting@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2469 on Apr 3, 2014 14:05PM

**SB2469**

Submitted on: 4/3/2014

Testimony for FIN on Apr 3, 2014 14:05PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Beth Giesting	Office of the Governor	Support	Yes

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to support this important bill. We believe there are some additional improvements needed but ask for your support so we can continue to work on it.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
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April 03, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Luke and Members of the Committee:


SUBJECT: SB 2469 SD2 HD2 – Relating to Telehealth

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB 2469 SD2 HD2**. The purpose of this bill is to: (1) Require reimbursement for services provided through telehealth to be equivalent to reimbursement for the same services provided via face-to-face contact between a health care provider and a patient; (2) Clarify that a health care provider of telehealth includes primary care providers, mental health providers, and oral health providers, such as physicians and osteopathic physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, psychologists, and dentists; and (3) Amend references to "telemedicine" in the Hawaii Revised Statutes to "telehealth" for consistency.

The DD Council would like to highlight the second purpose noted within the bill, which is to clarify that a health care provider of telehealth includes primary care providers, mental health providers, and oral health providers, such as physicians and osteopathic physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, psychologists, and dentists. The DD Council is responsible for the development and implementation of a Five-Year State Plan. Our current State Plan (FY 2012-2016) includes an Objective, "Address all medical gaps in services, as indicated within the Individualized Service Plan by September 30, 2016." An activity to address the objective is to pursue statewide telemedicine opportunities. This bill would assist in the delivery of enhanced statewide health care services, increase access to services, and provide timely information to patients and health care providers.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our **support of SB 2469 SD2 HD2**.

Sincerely,

  
Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW  
Executive Administrator

  
J. Curtis Tyler, III  
Chair