



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

**H.C.R. 16, H.D. 1, 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 Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

March 31, 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 existings
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.

13 Teledentistry also allows oral health professionals to adopt and implement a new care delivery model
14 that provides the vulnerable and underserved populations access to oral health services in their own

1 communities. It will help remove barriers and provide another option to receive oral health outside the
2 traditional office setting. This new model can be an effective means to improve the access to oral health
3 care in Hawaii.

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



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

The Hon. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
The Hon. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
March 31, 2014, 2:10 p.m., Room 325

HCR 16: Requesting the Department of Health to Establish a Task Force to Study the Potential Benefits of Teledentistry for Vulnerable and Underserved Populations in the State and to Identify Barriers to the Practice of Teledentistry in the State

Testimony in Support

Presented by Beth Giesting, Healthcare Transformation Coordinator, Office of the Governor

Thank you for the opportunity to support HCR 16. The oral health of Hawaii's vulnerable and underserved populations is seriously compromised by access barriers that include limited insurance coverage (for instance, adults covered by Medicaid and Medicare currently have no meaningful primary oral health benefits) and a small number of dentists able to serve them. These barriers are exacerbated by lack of fluoridated water and restrictions on providers who can provide preventive services. Dental care to improve oral health is every bit as important as other aspects of our healthcare system and we look forward to identifying new avenues, such as teledentistry, to link those who struggle to get timely, affordable services with a reliable source of care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 113
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone# (808) 586-8100 FAX # (808) 586-7543

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 3/28/2014 # OF PAGES (w/cover sheet): -2-

TO: The Honorable Derek Kawakami FAX#: 586-8437
Vice-Chair, CPC

FROM: State Council on Developmental Disabilities

COMMENTS:

TESTIMONY FOR HCR 16 HD1

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STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
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March 31, 2014

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey , Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HCR 16 HD1 – Relating to Teledentistry

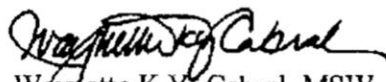
The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HCR 16 HD1**. The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to allow the Department of Health (DOH) to establish a task force to study the potential benefits of teledentistry for the vulnerable and underserved populations, such as access to dental 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 HD1**.

Sincerely,


Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator


J. Curtis Tyler, III
Chair