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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014

Thursday, April 17, 2014
10:55 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40 – RECOGNIZING AND DESIGNATING THE HAWAII HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE AS THE ONLY FULLY OPERATIONAL, STATEWIDE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE OPERATING IN HAWAII.

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner, testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”). The Department supports this resolution, and submits the following comments.

The purpose of the resolution is to formally recognize and designate the Hawaii Health Information Exchange as the only fully operational statewide health information exchange operating in Hawaii, and to continue to advance health care transformation initiatives, including the electronic exchange of health information. As set forth in the Healthcare Innovation Plan, a key underpinning for healthcare transformation is the effective use of health information technology tools which connect healthcare provider to provider, provider to patient, and data sets and public health registries. Both government and private industry recognize the need for information exchange.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

April 17, 2014, 10:55 a.m., Room 211

HCR 40: Recognizing and Designating the Hawaii Health Information Exchange as the Only Fully Operational, Statewide Health Information Exchange Operating in Hawaii

Testimony in Support

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

Thank you for the opportunity to support HCR 40. The potential for improving quality, cost-effectiveness, transparency, and patient engagement in our health care system is almost endless if we competently use available and emerging health information technology tools. The Hawaii Health Information Exchange currently fills a very important leadership role in carrying out the health IT elements of healthcare transformation, and has potential to do much more as the State's designated nonprofit partner. Besides building technical infrastructure, HHIE supports the adoption and use of HIT tools as the trusted, neutral source for expertise and as convener of health providers to discuss and align HIT initiatives and data governance needs and agreements.

The planned and possible future uses of effective health information exchange are significant:

- Improving care when all providers in the system share key information
- Reducing waste related to needlessly repeated tests or procedures
- Enabling care coordination when admission, discharge, and transfer information flows from hospitals to primary care providers in real time
- Increasing provider efficiency with lab and pharmacy orders
- Helping providers reach quality goals by providing timely clinical performance feedback
- Serving as a conduit of information shared appropriately with extended providers across the continuum of care to improve coordination and case management
- Improving timely public health information about reportable conditions, immunizations, and

- other priority conditions
- Serving as a conduit to support and supplement data warehouses to contribute to our knowledge about the system and continuously improve it
- Helping providers and agencies identify and address prescription drug abuse

As federal funding supporting development of the HHIE's services ends, we in the State expect to enhance our relationships and investments with HHIE. This resolution is an excellent next step to continue building the foundation of a close public-private partnership for health IT.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

April 16, 2014

To: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HCR 40
Relating to: Hawai'i Health Information Exchange
Submitted by: Christine Mai'i Sakuda, Hawai'i Health Information Exchange
DATE: Thursday, April 17, 2014
PLACE: State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Aloha Senator Ige, Senator Kidani and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the vote of confidence that Hawai'i's lawmakers have provided the Hawai'i Health Information Exchange (Hawai'i HIE) since its inception. You and your peer's ongoing support will allow us to carry on our mission of improving healthcare while reducing healthcare costs in our community.

We have truly entered a new era in healthcare delivery, and the ability for health care providers and organizations to share patient data with each other and public health agencies is beginning to yield tangible benefits.

The Hawai'i HIE team has had the privilege of helping physicians in our state become meaningful users of electronic patient data while helping them navigate the process of adopting information technology systems for their practices. We have also experienced the joy of having large Hawai'i healthcare providers, including a number of hospital systems on different islands, become a part of our family of Hawai'i HIE participants. This is a key step toward the Hawai'i HIE's and the State's mutual goal of statewide real-time exchange of electronic patient data.

While the Hawai'i HIE team is understandably proud of our achievements, we know there is much more to do in our role to help transform our state's healthcare system. On behalf of Hawai'i's healthcare providers, and the health care industry and community members who comprise the Hawai'i HIE's board of directors, I would like to humbly ask for your endorsement of this resolution to designate Hawai'i HIE as the solely designated health information exchange for our state.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,



Christine Mai'i Sakuda
Executive Director

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