



LATE

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2014

Tuesday, April 15, 2014  
10:00 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 ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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.

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April 14, 2014

To: Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, 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: Tuesday, April 15, 2014  
PLACE: State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Aloha Senator Baker and Senator Taniguchi:

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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April 14, 2014

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Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI

Dear Chair Baker and Vice-Chair Taniguchi:

For twenty years, the Hawaii Health Information Corporation has provided health data and analytics to Hawaii's hospitals, health care providers and State government. As a complement to our work, which focuses on quality improvement and cost control, we strongly believe that the direct exchange of patient medical information between providers will result in better care for patients as the services are delivered. Thus, we are a founding member of the Hawaii Health Information Exchange Board to help develop such exchange.

The HHIE effort has engaged Hawaii's healthcare providers, insurers, consumers and others, with the participation of State government. HHIE leadership has been centered in the private sector. HHIE funding entails significant private resources from the organizations involved in addition to State funding provided by the legislature. Hawai'i HIE's non-profit status has proven to be most effective in building the trust between parties that has moved health information exchange forward in Hawaii. This trust among participants has enabled substantial advancement of data sharing between diverse systems across the State.

Unlike large states, which may be able to support a number of regional or local exchanges, Hawaii's healthcare system cannot waste resources. Hawaii must focus information exchange functions into the Hawaii Health Information Exchange. Therefore, HHIC fully supports HCR 40 as the means to designate Hawai'i HIE as the sole statewide health information exchange in Hawai'i.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A. Sybinsky", written over a white background.

Peter A. Sybinsky, Ph.D.  
President and CEO

LATE



Real Possibilities

April 14, 2014

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016  
Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, 2:10 PM

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee:

As a board member of the Hawai'i Health Information Exchange, I have been fortunate to personally witness the great strides that have been made by the Hawai'i HIE team to bring various sectors of the healthcare industry together for a common purpose: to improve healthcare in our Islands and reduce healthcare costs. Electronic medical records and sharing health information have been catalysts that are unifying Hawaii's healthcare industry in unprecedented ways.

To date, more than 600 users and 180 physician practices, rural pharmacies and large healthcare providers participate in the Hawai'i HIE allowing them to securely exchange patient data. Just five years ago, this was only a dream.

I fully support the resolution to designate Hawai'i HIE as the sole statewide health information exchange in Hawai'i and that it continue to function as a stand-alone 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Hawai'i HIE's non-profit status has proven to be the most effective model in moving the health information exchange forward and has enabled rapid advancement of data sharing between diverse systems.

Equally as important, Hawai'i HIE has demonstrated sound fiscal management and has leveraged its federal grant funds to attract matching funds from private sources.

Having any other health information exchange in the same state would be a distraction to further progress and dilute funding away from Hawai'i HIE. As a community, we must support this resolution to continue this positive momentum.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Kim Stanton".

Barbara Kim Stanton  
State Director  
AARP Hawaii