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SB2470

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for CPN on Jan 31, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Wall	Community Alliance for Mental Health	Support	No

Comments: to: Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection re: SB2470 Aloha Rep. Belatti, Carroll, and the members of their committees, On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we strongly support passage of SB2470. We believe that the entire setup of the Connector was a failure and that a large part of that comes from including representatives of the insurance company's on the board. Scott Wall VP/Legislative Advocate Community Alliance for Mental Health

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January 30, 2014

Re: In SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2470 – Relating to the Hawaii Health Connector

Dear Senate Members,

Advantage Insurance Services, Inc., has been established since 2006, with combined experience of well over 30+ years. We have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau; we are current members of the HIAA and carry a well-respected reputation in the broker community. We represent hundreds of businesses, along with its thousands of employees and their family members by providing quality health care in the work place. We educate our business owners of their health care options and create a health care strategy that fits the needs of their company.

As we have been fortunate to have partnered with many of the top health care providers in Hawaii, our service and representation, first and foremost, lies with the small business owner. We carry an unbiased opinion regarding the options made available to them, however, still providing a professional recommendation.

Our service to provide small business owners with health care options, supported by an impartial opinion is why we strongly support Senate Bill 2470 – Relating to the Hawaii Health Connector.


I, Davis Kobayashi, have represented my company; clients and broker associates by attending many Hawaii Health Connector meetings with strong concerns of certain board members who are favorable to their insurers. This is clearly a conflict of interest and not in the best interest of the people. During my involvement with the Hawaii Health Connector, I witnessed a strong influence that the insurers on the board have had over the other members. This is why I believe excluding the insurers from taking position as board members will provide a neutral ground to implement a program that has proven to be successful in every other state.

However, given their experience and knowledge of the industry, we do believe the insurers can provide well-informed suggestions. With that being said, we strongly support the establishment of a subcommittee or advisory committee that these suggestions can be expressed.

The uninsured population is the primary reason why Health Care Reform exists today and this bill is what will continue to protect the uninsured from any partiality decisions that may be enforced.

We strongly urge you to vote "YES" to Senate Bill 2470.

Sincerely,


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