



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
The Hon. Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
The Hon. Angus McKelvey, Chair
The Hon. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
March 14, 2014, 8:30 a.m., Room 329

Senate Bill 2827, SD 2 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE TRANSFORMATION

Testimony in Support

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

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 2827, SD 2 Relating to Health Care Transformation. While Hawai'i's health care system has many positive attributes it experiences serious problems with fragmentation, barriers to timely access to care, and incentivizes volume and expensive procedures instead of primary and preventive services. The Affordable Care Act helps us address these deficits in many ways but effective change requires a complementary state investment. Many other states have been developing this capacity, some for more than a decade, and they have much to show for their efforts. These states include Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Delaware, Vermont, and Massachusetts, among others. We believe that we can also improve care and health status, especially for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and save money, notably by reducing the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on avoidable and preventable emergency and inpatient care.

Over the past year, our program in the Governor's Office, detailed a comprehensive plan for transformation tailored to Hawai'i's needs, which process was funded by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). The explicit expectation of CMMI for this federal initiative was to support governors' offices to align executive agencies and to engage a broad range of stakeholders – insurers, hospitals, advocates, academic institutions, and many more – in designing sustainable system-wide health care transformation specific to individual state's needs. One of the strengths of our process was in meaningful inclusion of more

than a hundred stakeholders as well as holding community meetings and provider focus groups on all islands.

Our plan emphasizes:

- Access to high quality patient-centered primary care
- Care coordination, especially for people with complex health and socio-economic concerns
- Payment reform to standardize payment approaches supportive of quality and outcomes instead of volume
- Effective use of health information technology
- Workforce models and providers that match the needs of a changing health care system
- Public structures and funding to support better performance.

The responsibilities proposed in SB2827 support the priorities outlined above and would be flexible to address the many emerging issues that will arise as we continuously improve aspects of our large and complex health care system, including overseeing the development of an ACA Innovation Waiver for 2017. Creation of this office is an important step forward as there is currently no State agency responsible for improving the public and private elements of the health care system.

Given the complexity and evolving nature of health care, the work of transforming it is never likely to be done. Since a permanent program is called for, we believe joining and updating the attached agency that has served as the State Health Planning and Development Agency is appropriate. The measure also retains SHPDA's important work to oversee certificates of need and related planning. The new position of Transformation Officer, who oversees the transformation agenda, will report directly to the Governor and so have the authority to convene the numerous state agencies that contribute to aspects of health and health care to work together toward aligned policy, funding, and regulation.

Recommendations:

- We prefer the timeline included in HB 2277, HD1, which maintains these functions in the Governor's Office through June 30, 2017
- We endorse the addition of the proposed work on the ACA Innovation waiver for 2017. Since this is a multi-year endeavor, we suggest that the Legislature may want to consider requiring that a second interim report be submitted prior to convening the regular session of 2016 and a final report before the 2017 session. We are working on budgetary requirements and will share them as soon as possible.
- Finally, we note that continued work toward other core health care transformation activities in FY 2015 will be difficult unless funds requested in the amount of \$752,870 are appropriated in the Governor's budget as requested.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SB2827 SD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE TRANSFORMATION

**Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

**March 14, 2014
8:30 AM**

1 **Department's Position:** Support.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of SB2827 SD2 HD1 PROPOSED is to establish within an
4 attached agency the Governor's Office of Healthcare Transformation and consolidate certain health
5 planning and policy functions.

6

7 The Transformation Office has made steady progress facilitating broad consensus on Hawaii's health
8 priorities, and establishing a roadmap towards a more vibrant healthcare and public health system.

9 SB2827 SD2 HD1 PROPOSED will provide the necessary continuity to maintain those gains, including
10 the State Innovation Waiver Task Force. DOH strongly supports the Governor's appropriation request
11 of \$752,870 in the Supplemental Budget to support this important work.

12

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Community Alliance for Mental Health

February, 27, 2014

Board of Directors

Anne Chipchase
President

Robert Scott Wall
Vice President

Brenda Kosky
Secretary

William Lennox
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Susan King

Linda Takai

Randolph Hack

Gina Hungerford

To: House Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection
Re: 2827, SD2

Aloha Chairs Belatti, McKelvey, and the members of their committees,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we support the passage of SB 2827, SD2.

The Office of Health Care Transformation has been has done a remarkable job of shaping the transformation of health care delivery and deserves a permanent home. This is integral in the creation of the waiver for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Therefore we support the passage of SB 2827, SD 2.

Scott Wall
VP/Legislative Advocate
Community Alliance for Mental Health

"Health care that is safe, health care that works, and health care that leaves no one behind"

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF HEALTH

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Dee Morikawa Vice Chair

&

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

March 14, 2014, 8:30 a.m., Room 329

Howard N. Ainsley

East Hawaii Regional CEO

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Aloha Chair Belatti, Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kawakami and Members of the Committee:

My name is Howard N. Ainsley, East Hawaii Regional Chief Executive Officer for Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), and I'm in strong support of S.B. 2827, S.D.2 Relating to Health Care Transformation.

I recognize that health care transformation is necessary and will require alignment of health care strategies, priorities, and investments for both the private sector and state agencies. Currently, there is no permanent state agency with authority to support, coordinate, oversee, and evaluate change and innovation in our health care system. Our health care system needs a sustained transformation effort that addresses all parts of health care: a renewed emphasis on quality and best practices, more care coordination, consumer engagement, deploying a more diverse workforce, effective use of health-related data, and payment reforms that support these changes. One of the most obvious concerns with our health care system is its cost. With population trends toward increased chronic diseases, health care is not financially sustainable unless we make system-wide changes. Hawaii data from 2012 indicate that approximately \$1.7 billion was spent for potentially avoidable or preventable emergency and in-patient care. S.B. 2827, S.D.2 would create a structure by which to move our health care system toward better quality, sustainable costs, and improved health.

I support this measure before you as an important element in carrying out a transformational approach to improving the public and private elements of the health care system. The State, as payer and regulator, is a powerful force for transforming the health care system. Additionally, the State subsidizes care for the uninsured, for behavioral health, and for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. The State's role as convener is also crucial since private sector health insurers and providers generally are challenged to agree on significant system changes without State oversight.

I urge you to pass this legislation and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you.



March 14, 2014

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
Committee on Health
The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Re: SB 2827, SD2 – Relating to Health Care Transformation

Dear Chair Belatti, Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rick Jackson and I am Chairperson of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans (“HAHP”) Public Policy Committee. HAHP is a non-profit organization consisting of nine (9) member organizations:

AlohaCare
Hawaii Medical Assurance Association
HMSA
Hawaii-Western Management Group, Inc.
Kaiser Permanente

MDX Hawai‘i
‘Ohana Health Plan
University Health Alliance
UnitedHealthcare

Our mission is to promote initiatives aimed at improving the overall health of Hawaii. We are also active participants in the legislative process. Before providing any testimony at a Legislative hearing, all HAHP member organizations must be in unanimous agreement of the statement or position.

HAHP appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support to SB 2827, SD2, which would establish the Office of Health Care Transformation within the State Health Planning and Development Agency; changes the name of the State Health Planning and Development Agency to the Hawaii Health Care Planning and Policy Authority; establishes the Health Care Transformation Special Fund; establishes and appropriates fund for the state innovation waiver task force to develop a plan for applying for a state innovation waiver under the PPACA; and makes an appropriation.

HAHP acknowledges that health care transformation in Hawai‘i is necessary to address issues related to quality of care, access to needed care, and use of health information technology to its’ full capacity to improve care and reduce errors. HAHP believes that access to affordable, comprehensive health care gives consumers the value they expect and contributes to the peace of mind that is essential to good health. We appreciate the intent of this Bill as a step in the direction of having an effective health care system in Hawai‘i, which will result in a greater alignment of health care strategies, priorities, and investments for both the private sector and state agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Rick Jackson
Chair, Public Policy Committee



55 Merchant Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4333

HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH
Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

808-535-7401
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Friday, March 14, 2014; 8:30 am
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

The House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

To: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Representative Derek Kawakami, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA

**Re: SB 2827, SD2 and Proposed HD1 Relating to Health Care Transformation
Testimony in Support**

My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-government employer. It is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital. The system's leading strategic initiatives include women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, and bone and joint services. Hawai'i Pacific Health ranks among the top three percent of hospitals nationwide in the adoption of electronic health records, with system-wide implementation that allows its hospitals and physicians to offer integrated, coordinated care throughout the state.

I am writing in support of SB 2827, SD1 and the proposed HD1, Relating to Health Care Transformation. This bill establishes the Office of Health Care Transformation within the State Health Planning and Development Agency, changes the name of the State Health Planning and Development Agency to the Hawaii Health Care Planning and Policy Authority, and establishes the Health Care Transformation Special Fund. The bill also establishes and appropriates funds for the state innovation waiver task force to develop a plan for applying for a state innovation waiver under the PPACA.

With population trends toward increased chronic diseases, health care is not financially sustainable without system-wide changes. Hawaii data from 2012 indicates that approximately \$1.7 billion was spent for potentially avoidable or preventable emergency and in-patient care. SB 2827 outlines a structure to move our health care system toward better quality, sustainable costs, and improved health.

Due to the changing nature of health care and the unique issues facing our communities, the task of transforming health care in Hawaii is one which is ongoing. Thus, creating a permanent state agency is key to facilitating health care transformation. Over the past year the Healthcare Transformation program within the Governor's Office has been detailing a comprehensive plan for transformation tailored to



Hawaii's needs. The Office of Health Care Transformation created by this bill is needed to carry out the plan.

We ask for your support of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

To: House of Representative Committee on Health
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

To: House of Representative Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2827
Relating to: Health Care Transformation
Submitted by: Christine Mai'i Sakuda, Health Information Exchange
DATE: Friday, March 14, 2014
PLACE: State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami, and members of the Committee:

Hawai'i is fortunate to have providers of quality care, but our healthcare system is broken. Patients and their family caregivers know firsthand what it feels like to be a victim of a fragmented healthcare system. When these families face the most challenging and stressful times in their lives, they turn to a system for help that unfortunately fails them. They end up feeling even more vulnerable.

Hawai'i's situation is not unique. Fortunately, the federal government has allocated funds that have served as seed money to begin the healthcare transformation process in each state. These funds will carry us through the end of the next fiscal year in June 2015. Change takes time; however, and it is imperative to begin looking at how Hawai'i will ensure the federal government's initial investment takes root and becomes fruitful for all consumers of healthcare through an ongoing financial commitment by the state.


Establishing and funding a permanent Office for Health Care Transformation is instrumental to the health and well-being of our state. A cabinet-level Health Care Transformation Officer reporting to the Governor will ensure the needs of Hawai'i's patients remain a top priority to keep pace with the rest of the nation. We need visionary, decisive leadership that is unafraid to confront complex healthcare issues and champions practical, cost-effective initiatives that will benefit Hawai'i's people.

Hawai'i's healthcare challenges are beyond the scope of any one state department or private entity to resolve. This must be a collaborative effort. The Office for Health Care Transformation would play a pivotal role in bringing together different sectors of our healthcare community to create public-private collaborations to address pressing healthcare issues. In creating the pipeline system that enables patient data to be securely transferred between different information technology platforms, I know that it takes a concerted, deliberate effort to facilitate collaboration. It is not something that happens automatically. Without the oversight by the Office of Health Care Transformation, it would be difficult to get public and private sector entities – each with separate agendas -- to speak to each other under a unifying, common purpose.

On a practical level, having the Office for Health Care Transformation also provides cost savings. Just as the State Health Planning and Development Agency carefully reviews the value of new health services to avoid service redundancy and improve access to quality, the newly expanded Hawai'i Health Care Planning and Policy Authority can bring the same oversight to other services.

Thank you for your giving these perspectives your serious consideration in your decision-making.

Sincerely,



Christine Mai'i Sakuda
Executive Director

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 14, 2014

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Re: SB 2827, SD2, Proposed HD1 – Relating to Health Care Transformation

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2827, SD2, Proposed HD1. HMSA supports this Bill.

Part I of this Bill establishes the Office of Health Care Transformation (Office) within the Hawaii Health Care Planning and Policy Authority; which is established out of the existing State Health Planning and Development Agency. Part II of the Bill establishes a temporary State Innovation Waiver Task Force (Task Force).

Led by the State's Health Care Transformation Coordinator, and funded by a federal State Innovation Model planning grant, the State Administration pulled together a wide segment of the community, under the Hawaii Healthcare Project, to craft a State Health Innovation Plan (Plan). The Plan addresses delivery and payment system innovation, health IT, workforce, and setting goals and measuring achievements. It will serve as the basis for a second level State Innovation Model testing grant to begin implementing the Plan.

In establishing the Office, this legislation will institutionalize those already ongoing efforts by the State to transform the State's health care system through the Hawaii Healthcare Project.

With the Plan already in hand, the Task Force will have a jump-start in working with the Office to ensure the State is best prepared to apply for the Innovation Waiver from the federal government.

HMSA's vision for a transformed health care system in Hawaii is aligned with the State's vision. We believe that health care transformation is necessary, and acknowledge the need for greater alignment of health care strategies, priorities, and investments for both the private sector and government agencies. Our current health care system has many bright spots but, as a system, it needs to change in order to address the myriad of rapidly-evolving changes in health care.

SB 2827, SD2, Proposed HD1, acknowledges health care as a State priority and institutionalizes a mechanism that ensures our health care system continues to evolve to address the every changing health care needs of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 2827, SD2, Proposed HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President, Government Relations



HO'ŌLA LĀHUI HAWAI'I
P.O. Box 3990; Līhu'e, Hawai'i
Phone: 808.240.0100 Fax: 808.246.9551

March 12, 2014

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 2827, SD2

Friday March 14, 2014, 8:30 AM
Conference Room 329

Ho'ola Lahui Hawaii, strongly **supports** SB 2827, SD2 that transitions health care coordination by creating a permanent a new office under the State Health Planning Development Agency commonly known as SHPDA. This new office is appropriately titled the Hawaii Office for Health Care Transformation.

This important new office is critical to support continued health care transformation in state government whose leader reports directly to the Governor. This will ensure that all agencies across state government involved in health care can be called together to work on common concerns.

Equally important to note that this is a separate office within SHPDA so the CON process would not be affected.

We ask for your support on this measure.

Respectfully Submitted

David Peters
Chief Executive Officer

Testimony of Phyllis Dendle

Before:

House Committee on Health
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
The Honorable Derek S. K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

March 14, 2014

8:30 am

Conference Room 329

SB 2827 SD2 (proposed HD1) RELATING TO HEALTH CARE TRANSFORMATION

Chair Belatti, Chair McKelvey and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB2827 SD2 proposed HD1 which codifies a state office for health care transformation and which creates a state innovation waiver task force and provides an appropriation..

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

Part I

We support the efforts of the administration, under the direction of Beth Giesting, to seek out ways to assure that health care is available to all of Hawaii's residents.

We recognize that there are many efforts underway to address the problem of adequate access to health care services. All of these efforts will benefit from the coordination that will be available through the Office of Health Care Transformation. Also we appreciate the efforts to assure that the work of the State Health Planning and Development Agency will not be negatively affected by the addition of the transformation office.

Kaiser Permanente is eager to be part of these transformation efforts.

Part II

This bill will provide an opportunity to pull together the many diverse parts of government and the private sector that are seeking to assure access to health care for all of Hawaii's residents though assuring that all have access to affordable health coverage. The opportunity to seek innovative ways to adjust the programs we have in place and even consider new programs is critical at this time of great change in health care.

Kaiser Permanente is eager to be part of this effort. We hope to offer our unique understanding of health care coverage and delivery to assist the task force.

We are confident that under the direction of healthcare transformation coordinator Beth Giesting that this group will be able to secure an innovation waiver.

Thank you for your consideration.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

LATE

House Committee on Health

The Hon. Della Au Belatti, Chair

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

The Hon. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

The Hon. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2827, SD2

Relating to Hawaii Health Care Transformation

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

March 14, 2014, 8:30 am, Room 329

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2827, SD2, which establishes the Office of Health Care Transformation in Hawaii and establishes the Health Care Transformation Special Fund.

The HPCA believes that codifying the Office of Health Care Transformation will provide many vital services to the healthcare community of Hawaii. In addition, this measure establishes the necessary framework and delegates lines of authority to accomplish the objectives of health care transformation. These include identifying state needs, developing state health system goals, coordinating health policy, identifying best practices, overseeing payment reform discussions, and developing a statewide plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

LATE

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 691-5900

**S.B. 2827, SD2, Proposed HD1
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE TRANSFORMATION
House Committee on Health
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
March 14, 2014; 8:30 a.m.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of S.B. 2827, SD2, Proposed HD1, Relating to Health Care Transformation. My name is Paula Yoshioka, Senior Vice President for The Queen's Health Systems (QHS).

QHS has appreciated and supported the State's Health Care Transformation efforts to achieve better health, lower costs, and reduced health disparities in Hawaii by seeking to address areas such as payment reform, care coordination, health information technology, and workforce development. Hawaii is a testing ground for innovation in these areas. Much work for the Health Care Transformation Office lay ahead as Hawaii's healthcare community and stakeholders begin to look at implementation of new models and plans.

QHS stands committed to supporting these continued efforts.

LATE

House Committee on Health
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Chair Belatti and members of the Health Committee;
Chair McKelvey and members of the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee;

Testimony regarding S.B.2027, SD 2
Relating to Hawaii Health Connector and Health Care Transformation

This bill places the current temporary Health Care Transformation Program into the Department of Health, replacing the State Health Planning and Development Agency, and makes it accountable only to the Governor.

We agree that there is a clear need for a "permanent state agency with the authority to support, coordinate, oversee, and evaluate change and innovation in our health care system." However, there is such an agency and it is the Hawaii Health Authority (HHA). According to HRS 322H-1, the HHA was conceived as "an autonomous body corporate and politic and an instrumentality of the State" and was intended to "be responsible for overall health planning for the State and shall be responsible for determining future capacity needs for health providers, facilities, equipment, and support services providers." The HHA did present two reports to the legislature and the Governor in December 2011 and January 2013, offering a coherent vision leading to a comprehensive, coordinated health care system organized around assuring cost-effective health care for everyone in Hawaii. This vision was based on models shown to be successful elsewhere, both in the US and in other countries, and it is soundly based on evidence for what has been shown to actually work. The HHA was ready to work with all relevant state agencies and stakeholders to work out the specifics for how to implement this vision.

However, the Governor's Health Transformation Initiative decided from the start to ignore the vision offered by the HHA and to organize health transformation around the convenience of a few of the health insurance companies. The Governor's office denied any funding or administrative support to the HHA. The result so far is a health transformation effort that preserves all the access problems and fragmentation of our dysfunctional Medicaid program, ignores the voices of physicians and other actual providers of care, is needlessly complex and administratively top heavy, and is not based on any coherent model that has demonstrated success anywhere else.

H.B. 2027.SD2 establishes the Office of Health Care Transformation within the State Health and Planning Agency. It then changes the name of the "agency" to "authority". This would assure that there would be no independent vision for health transformation in Hawaii, and allows it to be controlled by special interests with influence on the Governor.

In contrast, the HHA is appointed jointly by the Legislature and the Governor, and it is accountable to the health care needs of the people of Hawaii, not to special interests. It should be supported in fulfilling its intended role and function as the central planning agency for health care transformation for Hawaii.


Jory Watland
Member, Hawaii Health Authority

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD
571 Kaimalino St.
Kailua, HI 96734

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2827

I am writing to offer my strongest support for HB2827. As Director of the Area Health Education Center and a physician workforce researcher, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for working toward transforming our healthcare system in Hawaii. My research has shown that Hawaii has 700 fewer physicians than a comparable population on the mainland US. The shortage is most severe in rural areas such as Hawaii Island. We need to transform our healthcare system into one that provides total-person care in a team based atmosphere, with fewer administrative burdens on providers. We need to work together to do this or we will not succeed. But if we do work together, we will be able to create a system that expands care available, and costs less for care. HB2827 will be one important step in this process, by having an office that can convene the meetings as they have been doing for over a year. Thank you for your attention to this matter and please keep up the good work!

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD

From: Marion Poirier <mpoirier808@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 4:04 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL



House Committee on Health and
House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Friday, March 14, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in Rm. 329
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

FROM: Marion Poirier, M.A., R.N.
Member, Hawaii Health Authority

SUBJECT: STRONG OPPOSITION of S.B. 2827
Relating to Health Care Transformation

GOOD DAY HEALTH CHAIR BELATTI, COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS CHAIR McKELVEY AND MEMBERS OF THE RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES:

My name is Marion Poirier, M. A., R. N., and I am a member of the Hawaii Health Authority(HHA). With an educational background that includes a graduate degree in management/healthcare administration, I have studied this subject extensively.

In addition, there is a 21 state single payer coalition that provides me with important insights.

This testimony is in strong opposition to S.B. 2827. The HHA is the existing Authority tasked with the comprehensive enactment of universal health care in Hawaii. There is no need to create any new entity, and there is no valid reason to believe that the same operatives who gave us the health connector would be capable of an even more expansive role.

The Office of the Governor did not release the \$100,000 that the Legislature had appropriated for the HHA. You have another appropriation bill before you at this hearing. We really need some money to do our work. The Legislature created us. The Governor appointed us in a ceremonial fashion. Since then, we have had to function in an all volunteer capacity. This is really quite sad for healthcare reform in Hawaii. I am privileged to serve on the Authority with members who are highly respected professionals with resumes that reflect diversity in just about every facet of health, care, and treatment delivery.

On Sunday, the Star Advertiser reported that the Governor favors single payer health care. The HHA prefers to use the term universal health care because it truly provides a wider blanket of options. People need to have appropriate resources follow their health, care, and treatment needs. We are dealing with real people whose lives are depending on these policy decisions. Now is the time to get on with it.

The Health Care Reform Plan (HCRP) described in Sunday's Star Advertiser "Island Voices" will have great difficulty in implementation. For example, as a former executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Hawaii, I witnessed a lack of physicians, advanced clinical nurse practitioners and social workers as well as the lack of hospital beds for our patient population. Sub-standard MEDICAID payment is a serious reason for the aforementioned. The HCRP does nothing to address these inadequacies.

There has been over a decade of planning to choose the HAawaii Health Authority as the State instrumentality for universal health care. Please do not hamper our mission with organizational detours of apparent convenience. People are hurting today.

Please defer this measure.

Thank you.

Marion Poirier
From my iPad