



HAWAII / ACEP

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

LATE

March 16, 2016

Senator Rosalyn Baker

Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

HB2233 HD2: Relating to Health Care Professionals

Testimony in OPPOSITION, with suggested amendments

Dear Senator Baker and Committee Members:

The recent Dengue epidemic on the island of Hawaii has demonstrated the importance of rapid dissemination of information to physicians and the public to combat emergency infectious diseases. We feel there is a way to improve our ability to react as a health care system in the future. However, the current bill requiring CME for provider licensure misses the mark.

Requiring continuing medical education (CME) for health care providers in the state for Hawaii specific infectious diseases would be inefficient and ineffective. Developing and paying for annual CME for the 12,000+ physicians in Hawaii would cost in excess of \$100,000 each year. Further, CME takes several months to create and move through the approval process. When an emerging infectious disease strikes the state, information needs to be disseminated immediately.

Hawaii's emergency physicians and our provider colleagues in other specialties want accurate and timely information that helps us to take better care of patients. Hawaii's Department of Health has been very effective in creating educational materials for providers. The root cause of the problem has been the inability of the Department of Health to disseminate information directly to providers.

We suggest requiring an active email address in the licensure process of physicians and other appropriate health care providers, and then allowing the Department of Health access to that database for the purpose of disseminating information related to reportable diseases.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

William Scruggs, MD

President, Hawaii College of Emergency Physicians

LATE

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**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2233 HD2
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 22, 2016 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) submits comments and amendments
4 regarding HB2233 HD1.

5

6 Comments on SECTION 1

7 DOH takes seriously the responsibility to lead statewide conversations on trending public health topics,
8 in this case with the provider community through Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing
9 Education Unit (CEU) credits. However, this proposal requires resources beyond what the department
10 currently possesses. Expenses related to CME typically include accreditation of credits, logistics
11 including speaker fees, and related follow up to determine impact.

12

13 The department requests that if this proposal passes, the Committee Report reflect the need for a
14 minimum \$150,000 per year to develop and deploy annual CME/CEU events for the approximately 2,800
15 active physicians and thousands of other clinicians and allied professionals who contribute to Hawaii's
16 healthcare workforce.

17

18 Comments on SECTION 2

19 The department **supports** a requirement for health care provider to provide an email address to the
20 State of Hawaii for purposes of coordination and communication for emergent public health issues. To
21 improve the reach and efficacy of this measure, the department recommends wording that:

22

- Compels reporting at the time of licensure or re-licensure

- 1 • Specifies a time frame and responsibility to notify the State if the email address changes prior to
2 re-licensure
- 3 • Permits sharing of these email addresses with other critical and government partners who lead
4 or assist in public health, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, State Civil
5 Defense, etc.
- 6 • Permits the department to specify other contact information through rule-making which may
7 facilitate communication in the event of a public health crises, such as mobile number
8

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

10

11 **Offered Amendments:** N/A

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HAWAII' I ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

March 21, 2016

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

9:30am

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

415 South Beretania Street

House Bill 2233 Testimony in Opposition

We, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians representing 316 active family physicians in our state fully support the idea of information dissemination on emerging health topics, and in fact will assist the Department of Health in spreading the word about emerging diseases in Hawaii and training on important topics. We believe that allowing all email addresses to be obtained by Department of Health for the purpose of disseminating information on emerging diseases is an excellent idea, however requiring continuing education of all providers in order to maintain licensure will cost over \$100,000 and will not necessarily meet the needs of educating physicians of different specialties. We believe that a better approach is to alert healthcare providers via email to available educational resources and to reporting requirements for infectious diseases.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Apoliona, M.D.

Legislative chair

Kelley Withy, M.D., Ph.D.

President

Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians

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