



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 5, 2016

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Belatti and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 2577 – Relating to Telehealth

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB 2577**. The purpose of this bill is to: (1) Require patient approval prior to the delivery of any medical services through telehealth; and (2) Prohibit health insurance companies from limiting the setting where telehealth services are provided or requiring in-person contact between a patient and physician before the delivery of telehealth services.

The DD Council would like to highlight the amendment on page 2, lines 5-10, to add language to inform the patient that telehealth may be used and obtain verbal consent from the patient for the use of telehealth. Telehealth services shall include a documented patient evaluation, including history and a discussion of physical symptoms adequate to establish a diagnosis and to identify underlying conditions or contraindications to the treatment recommended or provided.

The DD Council is responsible for the development and implementation of a Five-Year State Plan. Our current State Plan (FY 2012-2016) includes an Objective, "Address all medical gaps in services, as indicated within the Individualized Service Plan by September 30, 2016." An activity to address the objective is to pursue statewide telemedicine opportunities. This bill would assist in the delivery of enhanced statewide health care services, increase access to services, and provide timely information to patients and health care providers.

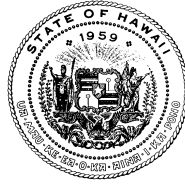
Thank you for the opportunity to offer our **support of HB 2577**.

Sincerely,

Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator

Josephine C. Woll
Chair

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2577
RELATING TO TELEHEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 5, 2016

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for the department.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports policies assuring greater access to
- 3 telehealth services for Medicaid, privately insured, and uninsured populations. Restrictions on
- 4 settings and in-person provider/patient contact limit the utility of telehealth for treatment and
- 5 consultation unreasonably.
- 6 **Offered Amendments:** N/A

**PRESENTATION OF THE
HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

**Friday, February 5, 2016
9:15 a.m.**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2577, RELATING TO TELEHEALTH.

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board ("**Board**"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2577, Relating to Telehealth. The Board has not had an opportunity to review this measure, but will do so at its meeting on February 11, 2016.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill No. 2577.



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 5, 2016

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

Re: HB 2577 – Relating to Telehealth

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 2577, which would require prior approval of a patient before medical services are provided using telehealth; prohibit plans from limiting the setting in which telehealth services are provided; and prohibits requiring in-person contact between a patient and provider prior to the delivery of health services using telehealth. HMSA supports this Bill, and we offer one suggested amendment.

Telehealth is a proven, effective and efficient way to facilitate timely access to quality health care, improve health outcomes, reduce the incidence of avoidable urgent and emergent care, and even-out distribution of health care providers. HMSA is committed to seeing telehealth become an integral part of our healthcare system, and we were the first in the nation to offer telehealth services thru our Online Care system.

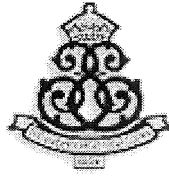
HB 2577 will help to ensure our members receive healthcare services via telehealth only if they wish to use that mode of service delivery. This Bill also will afford our members the opportunity to receive telehealth services in the least restrictive environment.

That said, we recognize that mobile apps have become a dominant means of interaction, even for healthcare. HMSA members have access to healthcare information and our OnlineCare system thru our HMSA app on their smart phones and other digital devices. We suggest that the definition of “telehealth” in the Bill be amended to include the use of mobile apps.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on HB 2577.


Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President, Government Relations.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Committee on Health

From:  Paula Yoshioka, Senior Vice President, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 4, 2016

Hrg: House Committee on Health Hearing; Friday, February 5, 2016 at 9:15am in Room 329

Re: **Support and comments for HB 2577, Relating to Telehealth**

My name is Paula Yoshioka and I am a Senior Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems (QHS). I would like to express my **support** for the intent of HB 2577, Relating to Telehealth.

At Queen's we recognize the importance of expanding access to care through telecommunication technologies. Queen's now operates statewide with a four hospital system: The Queen's Medical Center – Punchbowl, The Queen's Medical Center – West O'ahu, Molokai General Hospital, and North Hawai'i Community Hospital. It is our desire to expand health care access beyond O'ahu where our trauma and tertiary/quaternary services are located at QMC Punchbowl. Telehealth services are key to strengthening access for our rural and underserved populations in Hawai'i.

We appreciate the introduction of this bill and support its intent; however, we prefer the language in HB 1944, Relating to Telehealth and ask you to support that bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

**February 05, 2016 at 9:15am
Conference Room 329**

House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: Testimony in Support – HB 2577

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at 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-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health 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.

HPH is writing in **support** of HB 2577 which would require patient approval prior to the delivery of any medical services through telehealth and prohibits health insurers from limiting the setting where telehealth services are provided or requiring in-person contact between a patient and physician before the delivery of telehealth services.

The delivery of health care services has undergone significant technological advancements in recent years. Telehealth and telemedicine are innovative and highly effective means of providing health care services to a greater number of people. Telehealth brings health care services to our rural communities as well as underserved areas. With our shortage of physicians statewide, telehealth is an important tool in the delivery of services. This bill makes telehealth services more accessible, and thus enables more people to benefit from such services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





Eric P. Douglas
Senior Director, Government Affairs

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Eric.Douglas@CVSHealth.com

The Honorable Della Au Belatti
Chair, House Committee on Health

Friday, February 5, 2016
Conference Room 329; 9:15 AM

RE: HB 2577 – Relating to Telehealth – Support, Requesting Amendment

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and members of the Committee:

CVS Health appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2577 which requires patient approval prior to the delivery of any medical services through telehealth. The bill also prohibits health insurance companies from limiting the setting where telehealth services are provided or requiring in-person contact between a patient and physician.

We would like to request amending the bill by replacing the word “physician” with “provider” to include other health professionals in addition to physicians.

CVS Health proudly operates as the largest pharmacy chain in Hawaii, under our Longs Drugs banner; offering our patients and clients a wide range of comprehensive, integrated pharmacy and healthcare related operations statewide including: Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) services (CVS/caremark), Specialty Pharmacy (CVS/specialty), Mail-Order and Retail Pharmacy (CVS/pharmacy/Longs Drugs), Retail Health Clinics (CVS/minute clinic) and a distribution center.

We thank you for your consideration of our amendment.

Respectfully,

Eric P. Douglas



**February 5, 2016 at 9:15 AM
Room 329**

House Committee on Health

To: Chair Della Au Belatti
Vice Chair Richard P. Creagan

From: George Greene
President and CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Submitting comments**
HB 2577, Relating to Telehealth

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 180 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

We would like to thank Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan and the members of the House Health Committee for the opportunity to **submit comments** on HB 2577. This legislation seeks to amend certain requirements related to telehealth services, including patient approval.

We support efforts to improve the quality and accessibility of health care services for patients throughout the state. Expanding the use of telehealth will help to achieve that goal. We would respectfully request that your committee support HB 1944 since it addresses telehealth service availability more broadly than HB 2577.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 2:44 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mamaupin@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2577 on Feb 5, 2016 09:15AM*

HB2577

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 5, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin, APRN	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 12:52 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: psgegen@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2577 on Feb 5, 2016 09:15AM

HB2577

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 5, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pat gegen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In support of promoting tele health options for the residents of hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 5:34 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2577 on Feb 5, 2016 09:15AM*

HB2577

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HLT on Feb 5, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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