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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2015

Monday, February 23, 2015  
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 727, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII  
HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE.**

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, 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 takes no position on the bill, and submits the following comments on this bill.

H.D. 1 amends this measure by changing the definition of a qualified health plan to include a 'silver' plan as determined by the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act plan, and changing the effective date to July 1, 2050. The Department notes that H.D. 1 addresses the prior comments of the Department.

We thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.

February 23, 2015

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
The Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

**Re: HB 727, HD1 – Relating to the Hawaii Health Exchange**

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 727, HD1, which would require any health plan offered through the Hawaii Health Connector to be a silver, gold, or platinum level plan. HMSA offers comments on this Bill.

This Bill would eliminate the bronze and catastrophic level plan option for individuals purchasing health insurance. As a result, individuals who currently are enrolled in bronze and catastrophic level plans may be forced to go without coverage because they cannot afford the higher level plans. This Bill is contrary to an underlying tenet of the Affordable Care Act – offering options to consumers of health insurance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 726, HD1. Your consideration of our observation is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Diesman  
Vice President  
Government Relations