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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** HWNTestimony  
**Cc:** mbelardo@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1315 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM

**SB1315**

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HWN/CPH on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Teresa Belardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the passing of SB1315.

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:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** HWNTestimony  
**Cc:** dkapua@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1315 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM

**SB1315**

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HWN/CPH on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Strong support for SB 1315 RELATING TO HEALTH. Requires all health benefits plans to include coverage for Native Hawaiian culture-based activities, including but not limited to canoe paddling, hula, and lua, that have empirically shown to be effective in the management of weight, cardiovascular health, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease. Our cultural activities kept our kupuna healthy and can keep today's people healthy too. But we need to stop draining the Office of Hawaiian Affairs funding whenever Hawaiian activities are identified please. Mahalo.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:25 PM  
**To:** HWNTestimony  
**Cc:** blawaiianlvr@icloud.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1315 on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM\*

**SB1315**

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HWN/CPH on Feb 14, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR  
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2017

Tuesday, February 14, 2017  
1:30 pm

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1315 – RELATING TO HEALTH.**

TO THE HONORABLE MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO AND THE HONORABLE  
ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIRS, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner, testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”). The Department submits the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to add a new mandated health insurance benefit requiring all health benefit plans to include coverage for Native Hawaiian culture-based activities, including but not limited to canoe paddling, hula, and lua, that have empirically shown to be effective in the management of weight, cardiovascular health, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease.

Any proposed mandated health insurance coverage requires the passage of a concurrent resolution requesting the State Auditor to prepare and submit a report assessing the social and financial impacts of the proposed mandate, pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes section 23-51.

Additionally, the addition of a new mandated coverage may trigger the existing section 1311(d)(3) of federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which requires

**Senate Bill No. 1315**  
**DCCA Testimony of Gordon Ito**  
**Page 2**

states to defray the additional cost of any benefits in excess of the essential health benefits of the state's qualified health plan.

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

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 1:30 PM  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1315**

Relating to Health; requiring an expansion of all health benefits plans to include coverage for Native Hawaiian culture-based activities.

Honorable Chairs Shimabukuro and Baker, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Nishihara and members of the committee, I am Chessa Harris, MBA, a Native Hawaiian, and faculty member of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 1315, expanding insurance coverage for traditional Native Hawaiian practices with proven and demonstrable health benefits.

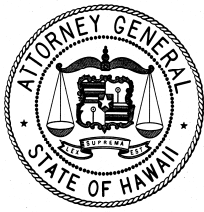
Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to advocate for the expansion of reimbursement for culturally appropriate services and traditional practices.

- Cultural-based activities such as hula, paddling, and lua not only offer cardiovascular benefits but the NH value of interconnectedness with the natural surroundings and fosters 'ohana (family) and aloha (compassion) amongst members. Unlike the gym, once people commit to a hula or paddling halau, they go to classes consistently.
- Kaiser Permanente will be launched a Fit Rewards program, beginning 2017, for members to encourage year-round fitness. After signing up for membership at a partner gym and paying a \$200 annual fee, members need to commit 45 days of 30 minutes workout sessions to be refunded the annual fee.
- Hawaii Medical Service Association has a HMSA365 Discounts program to engage members in health maintenance outside of the doctor's office. Some categories included under HMSA's discount program include tai chi lessons, Jazzercise, acupuncture treatments, hypnotherapy, meditation sessions, and more. Although offering members a wide range of health maintenance options, there lacks discounts for traditional cultural practices such as hula dancing or canoe paddling.

- In a recent study, kumu hula (hula educators and experts) were interviewed for their views regarding hula's relation to health and wellbeing. Each kumu hula participant expressed the importance of cultural integrity in health and that hula can be an important cultural practice to include in cardiovascular disease clinical interventions.
- Currently, there are also community-based health promotion programs developed and shown to be effective in the areas of weight management and cardiovascular health. Hula and other traditional practices with proven health benefits should be considered under insurance companies' reimbursement programs to offer culturally integrated health maintenance options.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Chessa Harris, MBA



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**  
S.B. NO. 1315, RELATING TO HEALTH.

**BEFORE THE:**  
SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017      **TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016

**TESTIFIER(S):** Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or  
Daniel K. Jacob, Deputy Attorney General

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Chairs Shimabukuro and Baker and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments:

The purpose of this bill is to “expand health insurance benefits to include coverage for traditional Native Hawaiian practices with proven and demonstrable health benefits.” Pursuant to section 1311(d)(3)(B)(ii) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a state shall make payments to defray the cost of any additional benefits mandated by the state that are not included within the state selected benchmark plan. We are informed that the Hawaii state benchmark plan does not provide coverage for Native Hawaiian practices. Accordingly, if this additional benefit is mandated, the State would be required to defray the cost.

Additionally, pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), before any legislative matter that mandates health insurance coverage for specific health services, specific diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part of an insurance policy can be considered, concurrent resolutions are required to be adopted that request the Auditor to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage. This bill proposes to mandate insurance coverage for traditional Native Hawaiian practices. We are informed that there has been no concurrent resolution adopted regarding this coverage as required by section 23-51, HRS. Accordingly, we recommend either that the bill be held until such time as the concurrent resolutions have been adopted and the



Auditor's report has been completed and submitted to the Legislature as required by section 23-51, HRS, or that the Legislature include wording within the bill that exempts this new mandate from the audit requirement set forth in section 23-51, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.