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**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Wednesday, February 7, 2018
2:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1922, H.D.1, RELATING TO HEALTH.

**TO THE HONORABLE ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:**

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”) appreciates the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1922, H.D. 1, Relating to Health. My name is Gordon Ito, and I am the Insurance Commissioner for the Department's Insurance Division. The Department supports this bill, which is a companion to S.B. 2487, and submits the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the definition of “quality assurance committee” to include committees established by long-term facilities, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, home care agencies, hospice, and authorized state agencies, thereby allowing for the creation of a quality assurance committee outside of a single health plan or hospital.

The Department supports efforts to reduce healthcare cost drivers by improving the care of high-need, complex patients. Better coordination will lead to improved health outcomes for patients, thereby helping to reduce healthcare costs and health insurance premium increases.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1922 HD1
RELATING TO HEALTH.**

REP. ROY TAKUMI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hearing Date: February 7, 2018

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the intent of HB1922 HD1, which
3 amends tort law to create a quality assurance committee outside of a single health plan or
4 hospital. A “safe harbor” within which health care entities may better plan, coordinate, and
5 manage a patient’s care as they move within the continuum of care is in the patient’s best interest
6 and consistent with emerging best practices of patient-centered care, e.g. medical homes.

7 The department respectfully urges the joint committee pass HB1922 HD1 to continue the public
8 debate.

9 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

HB 1922 HD 1, Relating to Health

I strongly support this bill as a health care professional (pharmacist) and as a leader/administrator (Dean for the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, UH Hilo) of a health professional academic program. Pharmacy practice is one of the professions that have become a key partner on interdisciplinary health care teams. Certainly, pharmacists have long been in practice in the hospital and clinic setting. Other types of health care facilities are now either required by law, to have a pharmacist consultation to review medications in LTC's, or by an institution's desire to achieve "best practice" standards include pharmacy expertise on a regular basis. Establishing quality assurance and monitoring adherence to safety guidelines, adverse drug reactions, safe and effective drug choices, and monitoring for best outcomes is key in assuring highest level of care especially in vulnerable, high need and often times pharmacuetically and medically complex populations such as the elderly, and patients in the palliative care and hospice facilities. Establishing quality assurance committees is a standard method and is absolutely necessary and assures ongoing review and adjustments in best practice can be implemented on a timely and consistent basis.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of this bill.

HB-1922-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:14:24 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/7/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	Hilo Medical Center	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of Hilo Medical Center, please accept this comment as our testimony in support of HB 1922.



February 7, 2018 at 2:00 PM
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

To: Chair Roy M. Takumi
Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama

From: Paige Heckathorn
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 1922 HD 1, Relating to Health

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 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 the committee for the opportunity to **support** HB 1922 HD 1, which would standardize the definition of a quality assurance committee in Hawaii Revised Statute. This measure would also enable medical and social service providers to work together, discuss, and propose solutions for the most difficult and complex cases they encounter. It is increasingly apparent that the needs and most pressing healthcare issues facing our communities require a multi-disciplinary response. Enabling dedicated providers and community members to collaborate more fully will promote the information-sharing needed to successfully address the medical and social reasons people fall into poor health.

This legislation will help providers address health disparities, bring down costs, and treat the non-medical determinants of health, and we would ask for your support of this measure. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

HB-1922-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:30:02 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/7/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike	Community First	Support	Yes

Comments:

Community First **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB 1922, HD1. Quality Assurance (QA) Committees provide hospitals, health plans, long term care facilities, and other healthcare organizations with a mechanism to evaluate, monitor and improve quality of care; reduce patient risk and error; and assess the overall effectiveness of care provided to patients. **QA committees are well established and essential to our healthcare delivery system.**

QA committees can already be established in a licensed hospital, clinic, longterm care facility, skilled nursing facility, assisted living facility, home care agency, hospice, health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization, preferred provider network providing medical, dental, or optometric care, or an authorized state agency. HRS § 624-25.5.

SB2487 merely provides liability protection for QA discussions for key healthcare organizations currently not covered in HRS § 624-25.5. In doing so, QA and peer review activities to evaluate and improve health care can be conducted in a wider array of health care facilities and providers.

Over the past three years, Community First has sought feedback and guidance from businesses, community organizations, health plans, healthcare providers, hospitals, social service organizations, consumers and other key stakeholders on ways to evaluate and improve our QA and peer review process. We strongly believe that HB1922, HD1 will enable more organizations and stakeholders to better evaluate and improve our health delivery system.

Please support HB 1922, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

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February 7, 2018

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Takumi, and Committee Members:

Re: HB 1922 Relating to Quality Assurance Committees
Hearing Date: 02/07/18 – 2:00 pm; House Conference Room 329

Thank you for hearing HB 1922. I am pleased to support the efforts of the Community Action Network, and believe this bill will have statewide beneficial effects.

HB 1922 would change the definition of a "quality assurance committee" and thereby improve civil liability protection for those who participate on such committees.

Quality assurance committees are an important tool in allowing coordination among different service providers, both medical and non-medical. Such coordination is of great help as we (1) try to maximize our limited resources and (2) achieve the best possible outcomes for patients and clients.

I hope you will act favorably on HB 1922.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Niimi".

Lance Niimi
Executive Assistant, County of Hawai'i