

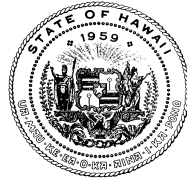
**SB-1246-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 12:23:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1246 SD1 SD1  
RELATING TO TELEHEALTH.**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 6, 2019

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$110,000 General Fund appropriation and 1.0 FTE.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports SB1246 SD1 SD1, which  
3 creates the State Strategic Telehealth Council to advise the Governor of Hawaii on proliferating  
4 telehealth as a standard of care in Hawaii. Telehealth is one of three department strategic  
5 objectives.

6 In 2017, in partnership with the John A. Burns Medical School, the University of Hawaii School  
7 of Social Science Research, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and from the  
8 support of the private sector, DOH convened a statewide telehealth summit from which four  
9 major themes emerged:

- 10 1. Increase patient demand;
- 11 2. Make it easy for providers;
- 12 3. Diminish administrative barriers and burdens; and
- 13 4. Encourage a robust technology infrastructure.

14 DOH dedicated part of an FTE to work on telehealth issues and progress has been productive and  
15 steady. Two major deliverables continue to move forward: community planning and pilot  
16 projects.

17 A draft statewide telehealth plan is in development following a series of statewide stakeholder  
18 meetings which included patient focus groups in each county, one-on-one interviews with

1 experts and thought leaders, and small group meetings with health care providers, medical  
2 educators, and administrators., the implementation of which will be guided by the telehealth  
3 council created by SB1246 SD1 SD1.

4 The next steps are for the planning group is to seek approval on the draft plan from leadership  
5 established in the Telehealth Advisory Council, who will guide implementation.

6 The second strategic deliverable is pilot projects throughout the state to expose providers to  
7 telehealth and encourage integration into their practices. So far, three pilots have been funded:

- 8 • Hawaii Island – the Kau Virtual Clinic Project connects patients in Kau District with a  
9 primary care physician in Hilo and Naalehu via outbound community health workers,  
10 mobile hotspots, and tablet computers.
- 11 • Oahu – the Wahiawa Telehealth Demonstration Project Pilot will connect elderly  
12 residents and keiki in Wahiawa with providers via telehealth to address oral health,  
13 nutrition and behavioral health needs. A team made up of medical assistants, licensed  
14 and registered dietitians and behavioral health specialist will be trained to deliver health  
15 care services via telehealth.
- 16 • TBD – a request for proposal will be issued in the first quarter of 2019 for a third pilot  
17 project.

18 The Governor’s budget request for FY2020 and FY2021 includes funding for up to two more  
19 pilots, which will assure at least one project in every county in the state. Furthermore, general  
20 funds are being requested to create an online “Telehealth Swap Meet” where health care  
21 providers can advertise availability or need. This tool will be developed and hosted by the John  
22 A. Burns Medical School, which will also provide the evaluation.

23 The 1.0 FTE telehealth coordinator created by SB1246 SD1 is intended to staff the advisory  
24 council and assure dedicated resources to the initiative. The next proposed phase is to link  
25 DOH’s telehealth initiative with the department’s two other strategic priorities: 1) investing in  
26 health babies and families, and 2) rebuilding community mental health.

**LATE**

**SB-1246-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 2:31:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie Yurie Takishima-Lacasa	Testifying for Hawai'i Psychological Association	Support	No

Comments:



**HAWAII CHAPTER – AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION**

(800) 554-5569 x13 • www.hapta.org • info@hapta.org

**SB 1246, S.D.1, Relating to Telehealth**  
**Committee on Way and Means Hearing – Decision Making**  
**Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019 – 11:00 am**  
**Conference Room 211**  
**Position: Support**

**LATE**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the WAM Committee:

I am Gregg Pacilio, PT and Board President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA), a non-profit professional organization serving more than 300 member Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. Our members are employed in hospitals and health care facilities, the Department of Education school system, and private practice. We are movement specialists and are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum functioning from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

HAPTA **supports** the increase of telehealth utilization in the state of Hawai'i. We support the movement to establish a method of providing quality health care to areas in need in a safe and effective manner. There is a shortage of quality health care in the rural areas of Hawai'i and developing reliable and efficient means of providing this care will be beneficial communities around Hawai'i. With the telehealth that does exist, there are not clear rules or regulations that can easily be followed in order to ensure quality and efficiency. The development of a council to oversee regulations and operations is necessary to establish telehealth as a high quality modality in health care. We fully support the implementation of such a program and infrastructure will not only provide care to this in need but be beneficial for the insurance companies, the health care providers and most importantly the patient. With this in mind HAPTA provides its support for SB 1246sd1.

Your support of SB 1246sd1 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact Marco Adame Jr., HAPTA's Telehealth Issue Lead at (213) 840-9226 for further information.



February 19, 2019

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 1246 SD1 – Relating to Telehealth

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 1246, SD1, which establishes goals for the adoption and proliferation of telehealth to increase health care access. It establishes the Strategic Telehealth Advisory Council and permanent full-time equivalent State Telehealth Coordinator position. It establishes the telehealth administrative simplification working group to research, make recommendations, and report to the legislature. It also appropriates funds and repeals 1/1/2022.

HMSA supports this measure and the efforts of the Strategic Telehealth Advisory Council to promote telehealth as a viable solution to maximizing existing local resources and increasing access as well as patient convenience and compliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pono Chong", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pono Chong  
Vice President, Government Relations



**February 21, 2019 at 10:00 am**  
**Conference Room 211**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
Director of Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**SB 1246 SD 1, Relating to Telehealth**

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** SB 1246 SD 1. This legislation would promote telehealth adoption across the state by providing the Department of Health with resources and encouraging formal community engagement among key stakeholders. These efforts will build off many years of progress that the legislature and the department have made to expand access to needed care, especially in rural areas of the state, through the opportunities that telehealth technology provides.

Telehealth technology can be particularly effective in states like Hawaii where care may be disjointed simply because of where a patient lives or works. This form of care delivery also has the potential to make care more affordable and bring highly specialized services into communities that would otherwise not have access to that type of care. We support efforts to improve the quality and accessibility for patients all throughout the state and this bill would help to reach that goal.


We would respectfully request that your committee view this bill favorably. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important matter.



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Ways and Means

From:   
Paula Yoshioka, Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, The  
Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 19, 2019

Hrg: Senate Committee on Ways and Means Decision Making; Thursday, February 21, 2019  
at 10:00 AM in Room 211

Re: Support for S.B. 1246, S.D. 1 Relating to Telehealth

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The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, 66 health care centers and labs, and more than 1,600 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 1246, S.D. 1 which would establish a Strategic Telehealth Advisory Council and create a State Telehealth Coordinator position within the Department of Health. At Queen's we recognize the importance of expanding access to care through telecommunication technologies. We operate statewide with a four hospital system: The Queen's Medical Center – Punchbowl, The Queen's Medical Center – West Oahu, Molokai General Hospital, and North Hawaii Community Hospital. Queen's provides a number of telemedicine specialties in areas such as but not limited to stroke and neurology, pulmonology, psychiatry, wound care, and critical care. It is our desire to expand health care access beyond Oahu where our trauma and tertiary/quaternary services are located at QMC Punchbowl. Telehealth programs assist with connecting our four hospitals and allow our health care workers to provide care to patients in their local communities.

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.*





**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, February 21, 2019; 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**RE: SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 1246, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO TELEHEALTH.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 1246, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO TELEHEALTH.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish the State policy of promoting telehealth to advise the Governor in the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan to establish telehealth as a high quality, cost-effective, and reliable means of health care access
- (2) Establish within the Department of Health (DOH) the State Strategic Telehealth Advisory Council (Council), comprised by not more than (11) members appointed by the Governor representing: health care facilities (2 members); health insurers (2 members); broadband infrastructure or telecommunications (1 member); the Office of the Governor (1 member); long-term care services (2 members); health care practitioners with practices in rural areas (2 members); and mental health providers (1) member;
- (3) Establish a full-time Hawaii State Telehealth Coordinator (Coordinator) position with DOH to support the Council's activities;
- (4) Require the DOH to establish and convene a telehealth administrative simplification working group to research and make recommendations to reduce barriers related to health care system credentialing, privileging, and related administrative procedures that may contribute to delays and inefficiencies for health care providers delivering care to patients;

- (5) Require the working group to report to the 2020 Legislature;
- (6) Appropriate \$110,000, in general funds for fiscal year 2019-2020 and \$110,000, in general funds for fiscal year 2020-2021, to establish the Coordinator position; and
- (7) Take effect on July 1, 2019, and be repealed on January 1, 2022.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of health.

The State of Hawaii is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals in the workforce, especially in rural areas. Recent studies note that the current shortage of physicians is at 20% of the total full-time equivalent positions throughout the State. The shortage is especially severe in the fields of primary care, infectious diseases, colorectal surgery, pathology, general surgery, pulmonology, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, family medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, rheumatology, cardiology, hematology/oncology, and pediatric subspecialties of endocrinology, cardiology, neurology, hematology/oncology, and gastroenterology.

This bill would facilitate and promote the use of technology in bridging geographical distances and mitigating the isolation of rural communities. FQHCs recognize the enormous potential that telehealth has in improving the quality, availability, and accessibility of health care services, especially as they relate to specialty care. In fact, the Lanai Community Health Center, an HPCA member FQHC, currently provides telehealth psychiatric services via telehealth on a fee-for-service basis. Others, including Hamakua/Kohala Health Center, and West Hawaii Community Health Center are looking into the feasibility of integrating telehealth psychiatric services in these areas.

Telehealth also holds possibilities in the provision of dermatology, dentistry, and other fields of medicine, as demonstrated in practice on the mainland United States and internationally. Yet, because this is a relatively new development, insurance reimbursement, especially as it pertains to Medicaid beneficiaries, has many challenges that need to be worked out.

Will the federal government allow for prospective payment system reimbursement rates to be authorized for services provided via telehealth at an FQHC? Can State law require reimbursement for dental services provided to a Medicaid recipient via telehealth (as specified under the parity law enacted last year), when the Department of Human Services has not yet reinstated Medicaid coverage for adult dental services?

Because Medicaid is regulated jointly between the federal and State governments pursuant to contractual arrangements and not directly through State statute, the application of progressive, ground-breaking laws on telehealth in Hawaii have not yet been applied to the extent that it could. While it is our understanding that the Hawaii State Department of Human Services (DHS) is currently applying for revisions to the 1115 Medicaid Waiver that would allow FQHCs to receive reimbursements for telehealth services, unless and until such amendments are approved, growth of telehealth at FQHCs will progress slowly for Hawaii's Medicaid population.

**For the Council proposed in this bill to function as intended, in our opinion, it will be essential for DHS to work hand-in-hand with DOH on the telehealth policy of the State. If not, then telehealth will become applicable solely for health care that is paid through the private insurance market and not to less affluent communities and consumers. Should that happen, the primary objective of such legislation -- to promote accessibility of health care to rural and isolated communities -- will not be achieved to the level of its potential.**

In addition, because FQHCs provide essential services primarily to rural and less affluent communities, we ask that you consider including representation of an FQHC on the Council.

**Accordingly we respectfully request that this bill be amended as follows:**

- (1) That Session Laws language be added to the bill requiring the Directors of Health and Human Services to jointly report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session on their combined efforts to promote this new telehealth policy and as well as ensure that telehealth is facilitated through both the private insurance market and public insurance programs such as Medicaid; and**
- (2) That the composition of the Council be changed to include a member representing FQHCs, either from the Hawaii Primary Care Association, or one of its member FQHCs.**

With the aforementioned amendment, we **SUPPORT** this measure and urge your favorable consideration.

In advance, thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

To: Committee Chair Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Committee Vice Chair Gilber S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Committee on Ways and Means

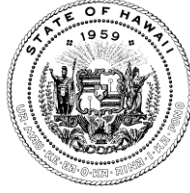
Date: February 21, 2019; Room 211

RE: **Support for SB 1246; Relating to telehealth**

The Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide public-private collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS brings together government and non-governmental organizations to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki. The Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide public-private collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners are working to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki. ECAS supports SB 1246, which would establish goals for the adoption and proliferation of telehealth to increase health care access.

ECAS supports efforts to improve the quality and accessibility for patients through the state to increase and enhance health outcomes. Alarming, the state of Hawai'i is experiencing a severe shortage of health care professionals, particularly in rural areas. Telehealth technology can be effective in states like Hawai'i where care may be disjointed or have limited availability depending on where a patient lives. Telehealth services brings highly specialized and technical services to patients in communities that may not otherwise have access to those services. This bill would also promote the use of technology in bridging gaps due to geographical distance and minimize the isolation commonly experienced in rural communities.

SB 1246 would strengthen the capacity of the Department of Health to provide much needed quality health care services, particularly to remote communities that experience difficulty in accessing specialized care. We respectfully urge the Committee to support its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
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

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, February 21, 2019  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 1246, S.D. 1, RELATING TO INSURANCE**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Colin Hayashida, and I am the Insurance Commissioner of the Department's (Department) Insurance Division. The Department offers comments on this bill.

This measure establishes the Strategic Telehealth Advisory Council in the Department of Health, establishes a permanent full-time equivalent State Telehealth Coordinator position, and establishes a working group to research, make recommendations, and submit a report to the Legislature 20 days before the convening of the 2020 legislative session. S.D. 1 has a sunset date of January 1, 2022.

The Department appreciates the Committee's amendment of the definition of "telehealth" in S.D. 1 to conform with existing definitions under the State's insurance laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes title 24).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**SB-1246-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 8:53:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Spira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Although initially in support of this bill, the changes that shift emphasis to organizations and away from individual providers for the advisory council have diminished my support.

The majority of telehealth providers are individual providers, and they should have a stronger voice on the council than is currently proposed in SD1 revision. Providers, not organizations, are on the front line with helping patients and can offer the best feedback on what works and what does not work for patients. I would support this measure if more individual mental health providers are represented.

Thank you for considering this request.

James Spira PhD MPH ABPP

Past President, Hawaii Psychological Association

Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Hawaii School of Medicine

Clinical Psychologist and Telehealth Provider for 20% of my patients.

**LATE**

**SB-1246-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:02:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Esteemed senators,

I am in support of SB1246 SD1 in so far as it establishes an advisory council to oversee and promote access to healthcare.

My one concern is that there is only one seat for a mental health provider. Given the proportion of citizens who could be impacted and the problems they have that may impact access to care, I think mental health care providers should have greater representation as the preponderance of those impacted by the proposed legislation tend to have behavioral health challenges and some of the best data we have on the effectiveness and efficacy of telehealth comes from the psychotherapy literature. I feel there should be one psychologist with telehealth experience specifically added to the council.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.

Psychologist



February 20, 2019

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair Senator  
Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Laura Nevitt, Director of Public Policy  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **S.B. 1246— Relating to Family Leave**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211 , February 21, 2019, 10:00 AM**

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**HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. We write in SUPPORT, with amendments to SB 1246 which establishes goals for the adoption and proliferation of telehealth to increase health care access. It also establishes the Strategic Telehealth Advisory Council and permanent full-time State Telehealth Coordinator position.**

HCAN supports this measure and the efforts of the Strategic Telehealth Advisory Council to promote telehealth as a viable solution to maximizing existing local resources and increasing access as well as patient convenience and compliance.

This legislation would promote telehealth adoption across the state by providing the Department of Health with resources and encouraging formal community engagement among key stakeholders. These efforts will build off many years of progress that the legislature and the department have made to expand access to needed care, especially in rural areas of the state, through the opportunities that telehealth technology provides.

There is, especially, a shortage of quality health care in the rural areas of Hawai'i and developing reliable and efficient means of providing this care will be beneficial communities around Hawai'i. With the telehealth that does exist, there are not clear rules or regulations that can easily be followed in order to ensure quality and efficiency. The development of a council to oversee regulations and operations is necessary to establish telehealth as a high quality modality in health care. We fully support the implementation of such a program and infrastructure provide care to those in need.

**For these reasons, HCAN asks the committee to pass SB 1246.**

*HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.*