LINDA LINGLE



P.O. Box 3378 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378 In reply, please refer to: File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HCR 138/HR 119, Requesting the Formation of a Task Force to Review the Potential Expansion of the Current Practices & Equipment of Hawaii's Telemedicine System

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

March 19, 2008

10:55 am

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the intent of this resolution and
- 2 respectfully suggests that another entity be designated as the task force lead.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** Unbudgeted staffing is required to expedite this legislative request.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** HCR 138 requests the Department of Health (DOH) to form a task force;
- 5 provide necessary administrative, professional, technical, and clerical support to the task force; and
- 6 submit preliminary and final reports in 2009 and 2010 respectively.
- 7 In November 2007, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) awarded the state \$4.8
- 8 million for a Pacific Broadband Telehealth Demonstration Project. The DOH is part of the consortium
- 9 that applied for this grant. This demonstration project will significantly upgrade the State Telehealth
- 10 Access Network (STAN) capabilities that allow health care providers to interconnect for telehealth and
- telemedicine applications, expand the interconnection of health care providers and facilities in Hawaii
- and several locations in the Pacific Island region, and establish a core infrastructure for electronic health
- record (EHR) access and data exchange. The grant is being managed by Dr. Norman Okamura and
- 14 Christina Higa from the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Hawaii. The department

- is part of the Telehealth Collaborative which convened in November of 2007 to discuss telehealth
- 2 initiatives and issues. Telehealth can be most effective when there is accessibility of the patient's
- 3 history and medical records, and for this reason the department's State Office of Rural Health worked
- 4 with UH's STAN team and received a grant award to do a pilot electronic health record (EHR) project
- 5 between Kauai's Community Health Centers and Kauai Veteran's Memorial and Mahelona Hospitals.
- The department does believe it would be advantageous to have a dedicated core group of
- 7 interested stakeholders to map existing telehealth efforts and to help plan for expansion of these
- 8 capabilities. We believe, however, that the department is not the appropriate lead.
- 9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street, Suite 601 Honolulu, HI 96813 Tel (808) 536-8442 Fax (808) 524-0347

To: House Committee on Health

The Hon. Josh Green, MD, Chair The Hon. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HCR 138/HR 119 Requesting the Formation of a Task Force to Review the Potential Expansion of the Current Practices and Equipment of Hawaii's Telemedicine System Submitted by Beth Giesting, CEO March 19, 2008 10:55 a.m., Room 329

The Hawaii Primary Care Association supports this resolution. Telehealth technologies have a great deal of potential to help address the maldistribution of health care resources and geographic challenges of our island state. While various institutions have laid the groundwork for telemedicine, we have yet to effectively develop a provider network and the financial support to make telemedicine a reliable delivery system. Equally important is work that still needs to be done to enlist patients and clinicians to ensure that a telemedicine system is used.

We would bring to your attention that our vital statewide network of Community Health Centers is equipped with telehealth equipment supported by the Hawaii Primary Care Association. This represents great potential capacity to serve the underserved when a viable telemedicine system is finally developed. Accordingly, we ask the committee to amend HCR 138/HR 119 to include a representative from the Hawaii Primary Care Association as a member of the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this measure.

mizuno1-Edgar

From: Sent: KAREN SETH [kseth@queens.org] Tuesday, March 18, 2008 9:41 AM

To: Subject: HLTtestimony Testimony

To Chair Josh Green and Vice-Chair John Mizuno and the House of Representatives Committee on Health:

Re: HCR 138, HR 119

To be heard at Hearing Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 10:55 am, Conference Room 329, State Capitol.

5 copies requested.

Testimony: I am submitting my testimony in support of HCR 138 and HR 119, "Requesting the Formation of a Task Force to Review the Potential Expansion of the Current Practices and Equipment of Hawaii's Telemedicine System."

Hawaii is a state that could potentially use telehealth to address the mal-distribution of medical resources and substantially increase access to specialty care. Hawaii consists of seven inhabited islands. The majority of the population and thus the medical resources are on Oahu with the neighbor islands having limited resources. Specialty care is either provided by periodic visits by specialist to the neighbor islands or patients incurring the cost of plane and ground transportation to come to Oahu. Telehealth projects in Hawaii have attempted to improve access and reduce cost, but the programs usually closed once the funding was exhausted.

I am the project manager for a current program called the Hawaii Neuroscience Telehealth Network. Queen's is attempting to provide neuroscience expertise for acute neuro patients in rural areas that do not have this expertise. We have had to cross many barriers including physician and administration acceptance, liability issues and evaluation challenges.

If we could pool our resources and bring more people together to collaborate on telehealth, there is so much more we could accomplish. I am a member of an informal telehealth committee formed in the summer of 2007 to explore options to better collaborate on telehealth with the goal to improve care and increase the probability that clinical telehealth activities would be sustainable.

This task force would coincide well with the goals that this collaborative is trying to accomplish. Let's work together! Mahalo.

Karen L. Seth
Manager, Neuroscience Institute
The Queen's Medical Center
1301 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-585-5179 phone
808-547-4001 fax
kseth@queens.org

mizuno1-Edgar

From:

Deborah Peters [dbpeters@hawaii.edu]

Sent:

Tuesday, March 18, 2008 12:01 PM

To:

HLTtestimony

Subject:

Testimony

Attachments: HCR138 Proposed Changes 18mar08.doc

To Whom It May Concern:

A consortium of stakeholders interested in the future of telehealth in the state of Hawaii have proposed the following changes to HCR 138.

- 1. Moving the supporting institution from the Department of Health to the Telehealth Research Institute (TRI), John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Manoa. We are interested in doing this for two reasons. The DoH does not have the resources for this effort and it also does not fit in with their current priorities. Also, the Telehealth Research Institute, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Manoa has been spearheading a state-wide collaborative on telehealth since July 2007, as evidenced by the successful Symposium last November. For more on the collaborative and the symposium, please visit the website: http://www.hawaiitelehealth.net/
- 2. Including a member of the steering committee of the Telehealth Collaborative on the task force. We are recommending this change as the committee is well informed not only on issues of telehealth policy but also on telehealth projects statewide, as well issues with and changes to the underlying hardware currently available.
- 3. Broadening the scope of the task force to include the following five recommended areas of focus for telehealth in the State of Hawaii as identified by the participants of the November Telehealth Symposium:
 - Business Model
 - o Reimbursement and Funding
 - Coordination and Collaboration
 - o Added Value and Incentives
 - o Political Will and Institutional Leadership

We are recommending this change because the Telehealth Collaborative feels that, although the originally stated areas of focus for the task force are important, the five additional areas are equally as important.

Specific changes are included in the attached document. The stakeholders interested in the future of telehealth in Hawaii include members from the following institutions:

Telehealth Research Institute, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Manoa Telecommunications & Information Policy Group, University of Hawai'i at Manoa The Queen's Medical Center Hawaii Pacific Health The Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative Hawaii Medical Service Association Hilo Medical Center Hawaii Department of Health Shriners Hospitals for Children

Respectfully,

Deborah Birkmire-Peters, PhD Member, Steering Committee Hawai'i Telehealth Collaborative

Deborah Birkmire-Peters, PhD Senior Scientist/Research Manager Telehealth Research Institute John A. Burns School of Medicine University of Hawaii at Manoa 651 Ilalo Street - Medical Education Building Honolulu, HI 96813 808-692-1090 Office 808-692-1250 Fax

Deborah Birkmire-Peters, PhD
Senior Scientist/Research Manager
Telehealth Research Institute
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii at Manoa
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H.C.R. NO. 138

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT PRACTICES AND EQUIPMENT OF HAWAII'S TELEMEDICINE SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, access to knowledgeable and qualified medical doctors is arguably the single most important factor for people to live long and healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique geography as an island chain poses difficulties for patients seeking to access medical doctors without incurring significant travel costs; and

WHEREAS, other states with access-to-care issues in isolated communities are exploring ways to ease difficulties for both patients and medical doctors, by using methods that allow both parties to travel no further than their own neighborhoods to interact; and

WHEREAS, one approach to the access problem in Hawaii would be to expand the State's telemedicine system, including facilitation of cost effective health care services, coordination of these services and management of chronic diseases, which is still in its infancy; and

WHEREAS, greater access to health care through telemedicine would extend medical information and physicians' care throughout the State, without requiring patients to leave their home island; and

WHEREAS, after telemedicine was first implemented in 1998 by former Governor Benjamin Cayetano as a pilot project, it became clear, even in its earliest stage, that there are endless possibilities for telemedicine and associated healthcare delivery to change lives for the better; and

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest for the residents of Hawaii to continue to explore the possibilities of expanding the current telemedicine and associated health care delivery system to encompass the State's twelve hospitals; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to form a task force to explore the feasibility of further implementation of the telemedicine systems' health care services so that citizens of Hawaii may benefit from it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to direct the task force to examine the following issues:

- (1) Current use of telemedicine and equipment;
- (2) Costs for expansion;
- (3) Timeframe for full implementation of an expansion project; and
- (4) Potential difficulties or problems that may arise during or after implementation; and

(5)Broader issues addressed at the November 15 2007 Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative Symposium including:

- i. Business Model
- ii. Reimbursement and Funding
- iii. Coordination and Collaboration
- iv. Added Value and Incentives
- v. Political Will and Institutional Leadership

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in forming the task force, the Director of Health Telehealth Research Institute, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Manoa is requested to include:

- (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
- (2) One member from the staff of the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii;

- (3) One member from the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;
- (4) One member from a for-profit health care organization; and
- (5) One member from a non profit hospital or health care organization; and
- (6) One member from the steering committee of the Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative Symposium Steering committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health Telehealth Research Institute, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Manoa is requested to appoint all members of the task force no later than thirty days after the adjournment sine die of the Regular Session of 2008, and is requested to convene the initial meeting of the task force within thirty days after appointment of its members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health Telehealth Research Institute, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawai'i at Manoa is required to provide necessary administrative, professional, technical, and clerical support to the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009, and a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any necessary proposed legislation not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Director of Health, and the Chairperson of the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.

OFFERED	BY:	
OLLLINED	DI.	



AMERICAN TELEMEDICINE ASSOCIATION

1100 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 540, Washington, DC 20036-4146 202.223.3333 • Fax: 202.223.2787 • www.americantelemed.org

March 18, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association and the ATA Pacific Island Chapter, I am writing to express our support for House Concurrent Resolution 138, "Requesting the Formation of a Task Force to Review the Potential Expansion of the Current Practices and Equipment of Hawaii's Telemedicine System." We also support the changes proposed by the Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative.

H.C.R. 138 recognizes that telemedicine improves access to health care, and that telemedicine is a way of dealing with health access challenges presented by Hawaii's unique geography as an island chain. The resolution calls for the establishment of a task force to explore the feasibility of further implementation of telemedicine systems.

There is ample proof of telemedicine's ability to improve quality of care and reduce costs. Establishing a commission to examine Hawaii's experience with telemedicine will provide information about ways to further take advantage of this life saving technology.

The ATA is the leading resource and advocate promoting access to medical care for consumers and health professionals via telecommunications technology. ATA seeks to bring together groups from traditional medicine, academic medical centers, technology and telecommunications companies, e-health, medical societies, government and others to overcome barriers to the advancement of telemedicine through the professional, ethical and equitable improvement in health care delivery.

The ATA Pacific Island Chapter is an alliance of professionals with an interest in increasing the effectiveness of telemedicine in the Pacific Basin. The Chapter is a point of contact, resource, and advocate for the State of Hawaii in telemedicine.

We are pleased to offer our support for H.C.R. 138 and for the changes proposed by the Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Linkous

Executive Director

Hawaii Pacific Health

55 Merchant Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • hawaiipacifichealth.org

[5 Copies]

Tuesday, March 19, 2008 – 10:55 a.m. Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

To: The Honorable Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair

The Honorable Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA

Executive Vice President

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HCR 138

Requesting the formation of a Task Force to review Telemedicine in Hawaii

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Members:

My name is Virginia Pressler, Senior Vice President for Hawaii Pacific Health. For more than a century, families in Hawaii and the Pacific Region have relied on the hospitals, clinics, physicians and staff of Hawaii Pacific Health as trusted healthcare providers. Through Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH), Hawaii's leading hospitals and clinics – Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital, Wilcox Memorial Hospital and Kauai Medical Clinic – focus on delivering the highest quality, most accessible and most affordable care and services. Our non-profit integrated healthcare system is the state's largest healthcare provider and is committed to improving the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, 18 outpatient centers and a team of 1,100 physicians on the islands of Oahu, Kauai and Lanai.

We are writing in Strong Support of HCR 138 which requests the formation of a task force to review the potential expansion of the current practices and equipment of Hawaii's Telemedicine System. HPH has been an early adopter and strong supporter of Telemedicine since 1998 to increase access to specialty medical care from rural areas of Hawaii and currently is providing Telemedicine services. However, there remain significant, non-technology related issues that are slowing the wider adoption of Telemedicine here in Hawaii. These include lack of full reimbursement for medical services provided via telemedicine from Medicare/Medicaid as well as private medical insurance and lack of clarity about Malpractice Insurance coverage of medical care provided via telemedicine.

The formation of this task force will help to identify and resolve roadblocks to broader adoption of Telemedicine in Hawaii. A grassroots effort called the Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative was formed on November 15, 2007 to address these same issues. An all day symposium was held on that day to identify key issues and areas to focus on to advance Telemedicine in Hawaii. The Hawaii task force being proposed by HCR 138 would give even more momentum and leverage to addressing these issues.









Hawaii Pacific Health

55 Merchant Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • hawaiipacifichealth.org

Additionally, we recommended that the following changes be incorporated into HCR 138:

That the Task Force designees include additional representation from two more required members:

- o One member from the steering committee of the Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative
- o One member from the University of Hawaii Telehealth Research Institute

As well as broadening the scope of the Task Force to include the key areas of focus for advancing Telemedicine in Hawaii from the November 15, 2007 Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative Symposium:

- 1. Business Model
- 2. Reimbursement and Funding
- 3. Coordination and Collaboration
- 4. Added Value and Incentives
- 5. Political Will and Institutional Leadership

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Strong Support of House Concurrent Resolution 138.











An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 19, 2008

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair The Honorable John Mizuno, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

Re: HCR 138/HR 119 – REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT PRACTICES AND EQUIPMENT OF HAWAII'S TELEMEDICINE SYSTEM.

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HCR138/HR 119 which would create a task force to review expansion of telehealth capabilities in Hawaii. HMSA supports this measure.

HMSA has been working with many stakeholders on the current state of local technology as it relates to the health care system. These discussions have ranged in topic from electronic medical records to telehealth services. We believe that promoting the use of telehealth services could assist in providing services to individuals residing in the more rural areas of our state.

We would request one small change to the resolutions to ask that a member of HMSA be included on the task force. We are more than willing to continue the dialogue on how to increase the use of technology in the health care system. We believe that engaging in the work of the Task Force would be beneficial to our organization and the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 138/HR 119.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman

Seny Dri

Assistant Vice President Government Relations Christina Higa 818 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Health Hearing Wednesday, March 19, 2008 – 10:55 a.m. Conference Room 329

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair The Honorable Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

MEASURE TITLE

Requesting the formation of a Task force to Review the Potential Expansion of the Current Practices and Equipment of Hawaii's Telemedicine System

SUPPORT

My name is Christina Higa and I am the Associate Director of the University of Hawaii Telecommunications and Information Policy Group (UH TIPG). I strongly support the HCR 138 which requests the formation of a task force to review the expansion of the current practices and equipment of Hawaii's Telemedicine System. This testimony is submitted as an individual and not as an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

I have worked with public service telecommunication services for twenty years. The UH TIPG provides public service telecommunications in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands for telehealth, distance learning, disaster management and humanitarian assistance. UH TIPG is one of the partnering organizations of the Hawaii State Telehealth Access Network that interconnects more than 40 health care facilities in the State of Hawaii. The UH TIPG network operations center serves as a gateway between networks in Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, regionally and internationally. In addition to supporting public service telecommunications, our program also has a health informatics component with projects involved in the development and implementation of electronic health records using the Hui Open VistA software. We are interested in assisting to make available affordable access to improved health and education in rural areas in Hawaii and the Pacific region.

I recognize the potential of telehealth activities in increasing access and quality of health care services and have observed telehealth developments in the State of Hawaii. Although a lot of progress has been made, there are common impediments in the health care system that needs to be addressed collectively by clinicians, payors, technical integrators and administrators. UH TIPG is a participating member of the emerging Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative that is working towards building a framework for advancing telehealth in our business strategies so that the programs may be sustainable.

I support the formation of a telehealth task force to work collaboratively with the growing critical mass of stakeholders and strongly endorse the testimony from

Virginia Pressler, Senior Vice President of Hawaii Pacific Health for HCR 138 with their recommended modifications:

That the Task Force designees include additional representation from two more required members:

- One member from the steering committee of the Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative Symposium Steering committee
- o One member from the University of Hawaii Telehealth Research Institute
- o One member from the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (added request)

As well as broadening the scope of the Task Force to include the key areas of focus for advancing Telemedicine in Hawaii from the November 15, 2007 Hawaii Telehealth Collaborative Symposium:

- 1. Business Model
- 2. Reimbursement and Funding
- 3. Coordination and Collaboration
- 4. Added Value and Incentives
- 5. Political Will and Institutional Leadership

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Strong Support of House Concurrent Resolution 138.

Lorna Nekoba 1190 Waianuenue Avenue Hilo, HI 96720

> Health Hearing Wednesday, March 19, 2008 10:55 am HCR 138 Conference Room 329

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Rep. Josh Green, Chair Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

Measure Title:

REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT PRACTICES AND EQUIPMENT OF HAWAII'S TELEMEDICINE SYSTEM.

SUPPORT

I respectfully ask for your support of HCR 138 to further telemedicine applications in Hawaii. Over the years, staff at Hilo Medical Center have supported and partnered with health care organizations on Oahu to implement several diverse telemedicine programs. In the hospital's nursery, a newborn can now be seen by specialists at Kapiolani Medical Center through two-way video conferencing. Pediatric cardiologists in Honolulu can also examine radiographic images including echocardiograms in real-time to assist local physicians with management decisions, in some cases avoiding unnecessary transports off island. In the emergency room, physicians are able to request telemedicine consults from specialists at Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health.

With the growing crisis of specialist shortages on the Big Island, there is a greater urgency to implement additional telemedicine programs to fill widening gaps in health care services. With interest and support from the state legislature we would be able to move faster in developing telemedicine programs in areas with growing providers shortages. Thank you for your favorable consideration in passing House Concurrent Resolution 138.



THE HOUSE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Representative Josh Green, M.D., Chair Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair

March 19, 2008, 10:55 a.m. Conference Room 329 Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Supporting HCR 138 Requesting The Formation of A Task Force To Review The Potential Expansion Of The Current Practices And Equipment Of Hawaii's Telemedicine System

Thomas M. Driskill, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer, HHSC

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HCR 138 that requests that the Department of Health form a task force to explore the feasibility of further implementation of the telemedicine systems so that citizens of Hawaii may benefit from it.

The Hawaii healthcare environment is challenged by many issues that have an impact on accessibility and availability to quality healthcare in communities across the state. HHSC is a state authorized public health system of safety-net facilities in five regions located on Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Lanai and Oahu providing acute, long-term care and rural healthcare in small rural communities, and recognizes an important role for telemedicine in bringing better access, quality healthcare, and to enhance quality of life for patients and healthcare professionals.

HHSC would be pleased to participate in a Task Force to review the potential expansion of the current practices and equipment of Hawaii's telemedicine system. Thank you.

3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAH 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-4020 • FAX: (808) 733-4028

HILO • HONOKAA • KAU • KONA • KOHALA • WAIMEA • KAPAA • WAILUKU • KULA • LANAI • HONOLULU www.hhsc.org http://www.hhsc.org

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