



An Independent Cicensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shleid Association

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

Re: HB 1317 – Relating to Rural Physicians Tax Credit

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1317.

This measure would afford tax credits to physicians who practice in rural areas of the state. There are numerous measures introduced this session aimed at assisting and encouraging physicians to practice in areas where access can be an issue. HMSA has been partnering with community organizations and other entities to find solutions that support local physicians. This is another tool which could be implemented to add to the list of incentives for recruitment and retention purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We would respectively urge the Committee's support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman Assistant Vice President

Government Relations