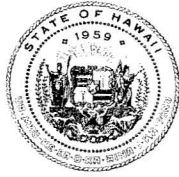


LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

### H.B. 2829, RELATING TO HEALTH

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

February 9, 2010

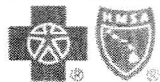
- 1 **Department's Position:** The department must respectfully OPPOSE this measure as it is premature.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** Increased state staffing would be required at a cost in excess of \$350,000 for a
- 3 medical epidemiologist, research statistician, statistical clerk, IT specialist and a .5 FTE planner.
- 4 Hospital costs would also increase through the need to hire staff to comply with additional
- 5 uncompensated requirements.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill attempts to reduce hospital acquired infection (HAI) rates by
- 7 requiring data reporting and collection and public disclosure. While all infections are always a serious
- 8 concern, we should first determine whether Hawaii's HAI rates rise to the level reported by the news
- 9 media, the CDC and other organizations before adding reporting and public disclosure requirements.
- 10 Accordingly, last fall the department applied for and received a federal grant to explore this matter.
- 11 From that an advisory committee was recently created that includes hospitals, insurers, legislators and
- 12 other stakeholders. One purpose of this advisory committee is to assess Hawaii's HAI problem and to
- 13 determine whether new or additional reporting requirements should be required, in what form, and
- 14 whether public disclosure should be implemented, and if so in what form and method.

1        This grant is for 2 years and will result in a report from the advisory committee as well as  
2        statewide educational efforts aimed at preventing or minimizing hospital acquired infections.

3        Therefore, the department respectfully asks that our assessment efforts be allowed to go forward  
4        without being preempted by this bill.

5        Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# HMSA



Blue Cross  
Blue Shield  
of Hawaii

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 9, 2010

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
The Honorable Ken Ito, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

**Re: HB 2829 – Relating to Health**

Dear Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity provide testimony on HB 2829 which would require hospitals to report on infection rates. HMSA supports the intent of this measure.

This legislative session has already seen a plethora of measures wishing to gain more transparency from the health care system. Unfortunately at this time each bill only targets a single aspect of the system, such as the one before you today. We appreciate the intent of this measure as it attempts to work towards providing potentially useful information specifically related to hospital infection rates.

However, we do believe that in order for true transparency to be meaningful and useful, it needs to involve all stakeholders within the health care system, not just hospitals. The language in this measure would be useful to be included in a more comprehensive transparency effort and we hope that as the session moves forward, the dialogue on transparency will continue and be used to spur true change throughout the system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman  
Vice President  
Government Relations



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair

Conference Room 325  
Feb. 9, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

**Opposing HB 2829.**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii represents its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the intent of HB 2829, which requires hospitals to disclose infection rates. However, the Association opposes the bill because of another recent effort to accomplish the same purpose as the bill.

The purpose of the bill is to reduce hospital-acquired infections. This is an issue that hospitals in Hawaii have begun to address, individually and through the Association. To that end, the Association recently created the Patient Safety and Quality Committee, which will address the issue of hospital-acquired infections, as well as other quality and patient safety issues faced by hospitals and other health care providers.

The committee is comprised of the quality officers of the organizations that span the Association's membership. These individuals have formal training in, and access to, the most recent information issued by CMS and other national organizations regarding quality and patient safety. We believe that the expertise contained in and the recommendations that flow from this group should be a resource to the Legislature.

The stated purpose of the Patient Safety and Quality Committee is to formulate and implement strategies for organizations that belong to the Healthcare Association to collaborate in improving healthcare safety and quality for the citizens of Hawaii. As stated previously, all of Hawaii's hospitals are members of the Association, as well as long term care organizations, home care agencies, and hospices.

The Patient Safety and Quality Committee has created an Acute Care Data Subcommittee, which is composed of representatives of hospitals, that is responsible for defining, analyzing, and formatting quality and safety measures and projects pertinent to acute care hospitals. Among other information, the subcommittee is considering infection control guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and other agencies. The subcommittee will develop a strategy that all of Hawaii's hospitals can support.

The Patient Safety and Quality Committee reports directly to the Association's Board of Directors. We would be glad to arrange for the committee to report regularly to the Legislature on its progress, particularly in the area of hospital-acquired infections.

For the foregoing reasons, we ask the committee to hold HB 2829.

**karamatsu1-Kenji**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 05, 2010 4:47 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** mpeary1947@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2829 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2829

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Margaret Peary  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [mpeary1947@aol.com](mailto:mpeary1947@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/5/2010

Comments: