

LATE

SB1178

Submitted on: 2/4/2015

Testimony for CPN on Feb 5, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Craig Twentyman	Hawaii Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture Associati	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB1178; it has been almost 20 years since acupuncturists received any raise in payment. While the cost of doing business has sky rocketed in the past twenty years, the pay rate has remained the same. As the President of HOMAA, many members face financial difficulties because of low pay rates. We are simply asking for fair compensation. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the bill. Craig T. Twentyman, Ph.d., L.Ac., CSAC, President, Hawaii Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture Association.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

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Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Conference Room 229 State Capitol

Wednesday, February 5, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

SB 1178 – Relating to Health

Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection:

My name is Tim Dayton and I am General Manager for GEICO, Hawaii's largest insurer of motor vehicles. **GEICO opposes SB 1178** which would increase the maximum amount reimbursable Under Personal Injury Protection Benefits (PIP) for acupuncture treatment. SB1178 as drafted is inaccurate. In 1997, benefits for acupuncture were eliminated under PIP as a cost saving measure for mandatory motor vehicle insurance; acupuncture was included as an optional coverage along with Faith Healing and Naturopathy. A year later, acupuncture was added back into coverage under PIP and grouped under the maximum number of treatments and maximum amount reimbursable that had been implemented for chiropractic. The Conference Committee Report (#117 dated May 1, 1998) noted that the Hawaii State Actuary has stated that the inclusion of acupuncture will not increase the cost of basic PIP because of it being included with chiropractic.

SB1178 now proposes to increase the reimbursement for acupuncture under PIP. GEICO believes that the majority of our policyholders would prefer not to have the cost of their auto insurance increased in order to allow for higher reimbursement for acupuncture treatment and we respectfully request that SB 1178 be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Dayton", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Timothy M. Dayton, CPCU

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Bark	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I fully support this bill as it has the potential to benefit many of Hawaii's residents. Effective healthcare should continue to be a primary concern for the Hawaii State Leg.

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