

HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 1, 2013

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

Re: HB 847 – Relating to Enforcement Tools to Improve Patient Safety

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 847 which establishes criteria for the State Board of Medical Examiners (Board) to summarily suspend a medical license. HMSA supports this measure, but we do offer an amendment.

The safety of our members undergoing health and medical treatment is paramount. While we truly believe almost all of our providers absolutely are of the highest caliber, both professionally and ethically, there will be the few that may take actions that jeopardize the health and safety of our members. This measure will provide the Board a tool to further protect our members. At the same time, this Bill affords a licensee the appropriate means to appeal a Board action to also ensure fairness for the licensee.

An action of the Board to suspend or revoke a license must be accompanied with appropriate notice to others in the health care system so that they may take conforming actions. To that end, we suggest an amendment to HB 847 to include a new Section 453-8(b) to read as follows:

(b) Any action by the board to revoke or suspend a license to practice medicine or surgery shall be electronically posted as a notice on the department's website, as the director deems appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President
Government Relations