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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Friday, March 1, 2013
9 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23 – URGING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE PROVISION OF OBESITY PREVENTION-RELATED SERVICES AND COUNSELING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner (“Commissioner”), testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”). The Department supports this Administration concurrent resolution.

The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to have the Department of Health establish a 25-member Obesity Prevention Healthcare Reimbursement Task Force (“Task Force”) that will develop recommendations for increasing the provision of obesity-related services and counseling by health care provider as mandated by the federal Affordable Care Act guidelines.

The Department is willing to participate in the proposed Task Force.

We thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter and ask for your favorable consideration.



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Friday, March 1, 2013 – 9:00 am
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA

Re: **HCR 23 URGING THE FORMATION OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE PROVISION OF OBESITY PREVENTION-
RELATED SERVICES AND COUNSELING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.**

Testimony in Strong Support

My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and service sites, more than 5,400 employees and 1,300 physicians on staff,

I am writing in strong support of HCR 23, which urges the formation of a task force to develop recommendations for improving the provision of obesity prevention-related services and counseling in accordance with the implementation of the patient protection and affordable care act.

Obesity is a complex and multifaceted issue requiring the collaboration of stakeholders in government, non-profit, private and health care sectors to create systematic large-scale environmental changes. These stakeholders must be educated about the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and of the ongoing efforts of the Hawaii Healthcare Project and how these changes affect Hawai'i's health care system. Health care providers must also be educated about reimbursable medical costs related to obesity prevention and treatment under the new ACA guidelines so that they may be compensated for the provision of these services and health care providers must be encouraged to provide services and counseling to overweight and obese patients.

This resolution provides a means through which the growing problem of obesity in our community may be addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:28 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR23 on Mar 1, 2013 09:00AM*

HCR23

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 1, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Javier Mendez-Alvarez | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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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