



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Human Services
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By

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And

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HB 694 HD2 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

I am testifying on behalf of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the College of Social Sciences **in strong support** of HB 694 HD2. This bill will help to better inform State of Hawai'i priorities for health care policy and programs by establishing a health analytics program in the Med-QUEST Division of the Department of Health and Human Services and maintaining an all-payers medical claims data base.

In 2016, the legislature amended section 323D-18.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, in Act 139 creating the Hawai'i All-Payer Claims Database to compile health insurer enrollment and claims data. This act also designated the Pacific Health Informatics and Data Center (PHIDC) in the College of Social Sciences of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa as the data center "to receive the data and to conduct analysis to further transparency and understanding of health care and to provide information to consumers." Since that time, PHIDC has collaborated with other members of the Hawai'i Health Data Center All-Payer Claims Database Steering Committee in a multi-agency collaboration to bring the APCD to fruition.

In 2016, health care expenditures were estimated to be \$3.3 trillion dollars or 18% of the U.S. GDP. Health care costs are rapidly increasing and finding ways to identify, manage, and bend the cost curve is of critical importance. The All-Payer Claims Database will serve as a valuable tool for the State, as the costs of health care continue to rise for the people of Hawai'i, the State Medicaid program, the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, the Department of Health, and other State agencies.

Across the nation, there are 19 other All-Payer Claims Databases in existence or in implementation. The All-Payer Claims Databases have also been used to identify trends in population health, health care utilization, insurance coverage, among many other topics. The Hawai'i All-Payer Claims Database intends to provide data and

reports to inform greater transparency, and to foster better decision making in health care purchasing and spending, service utilization, population health, and policymaking.

The University of Hawai'i through the PHIDC remains strongly committed to its role as a partner in data management, data analytics, and independent research and analysis on this critical initiative to produce and provide reliable data on health services, insured care costs, and public health.