



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection

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By

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And

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Chairs Ige and Baker and Members of the Senate Health and Consumer Protection Committees, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2529.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine supports SB 2529 because it is very important that Hawai'i establish a system under the department of commerce and consumer protection to collect, analyze and distribute health insurance claims information. We prefer SB2529 to the alternative version SB 2530.

Our support of SB 2529 is based on six factors:

1. We believe in transparency in health care.
2. We believe that all of us--health care providers, researchers, insurers, policy makers, citizens—need to understand how Hawai'i's delivery system works. This common understanding supports both the identification and resolution of changes needed in the system.
3. We believe the information collected, once analyzed, can help all of us improve the quality of care delivered.

4. We anticipate that rising costs of healthcare will compel us to find ways to assess current utilization and use this information to optimize clinical outcomes while eliminating waste, overutilization and underutilization.
5. We believe it is inevitable that these data will be mandated. The sooner we act to collect it and understand it, the greater will be our collective ability to design the system we want rather than react to a system imposed through Federal legislation.
6. Currently, no one data set provides a comprehensive look at the utilization and delivery of health services in the state. Without benefit of knowing the big picture, we cannot effectively plan for the provision of health services, training of adequate numbers of providers, or managing cost and quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 2529.