



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

**LATE**

February 3, 2016

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection  
and Health

Re: SB 2854 – Relating to Insurance

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2854, which amends various sections of the Insurance Code. HMSA has concerns with this Bill.

SB 2854 seeks to amend several sections of statute, and we are continuing to consider its impact on HMSA and our operations. We already have identified the following concerns:

Section 10 – 431:13-108 – Reimbursement for accident and health or sickness insurance benefits

This amendment seems to significantly broaden the definition of the provider for whom we must process timely claims. Currently, this section applies to claims from “health care providers” defined as “a Hawaii health care facility, physician, nurse, or any other provider of health care services covered by an entity”. As proposed, this section may apply to claims from out-of-state providers and potentially other provider types who may not be deemed a provider of health care services.

Section 13 – 431M-4 –Mental illness, alcohol and drug dependence benefits

We are concerned that this amendment would require plans to recognize licensed dietitians as providers of mental health services. It effectively may establish a new coverage mandate for dietitian services which we believe is unnecessary.

HMSA certainly appreciates the role a dietitian could play in a member’s wellbeing. They already are incorporated into our preventive health and wellness efforts. We encourage members to take a health assessment under our Wellbeing Connect (WBC) program. WBC offers members a broad range of services to improve their wellbeing, including health coaches and dietary assistance. In addition, HMSA has joined with the CMS-approved Ornish Reversal Program to reverse heart disease by helping our members address obesity and diabetes issues.

Section 18 – 432:1-604.5 – Contraceptive Services

The amendment in this section extends to pharmacists the authority to promote the use of contraceptive supplies or devices. This concept within this amendment actually is already part of discussions on another measure this Committee considered yesterday– SB 2320. SB 2320 authorizes pharmacists to prescribe and dispense contraceptive supplies to persons eighteen of age or older. We believe that this issue raised in this amendment is better addressed in SB 2320.



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Thank you for allowing us to testify on HB 2854. We hope we will be able to work with you to address concerns we may have. Your consideration is appreciated.

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.

**LATE**

**baker2 - Lia/Eve**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 3:02 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** rbt@awlaw.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2854 on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM\*

**SB2854**

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 3, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rick Tsujimura	State Farm Insurance	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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