

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Health**

**SB 2729, SD2, RELATING TO IMMUNIZATION**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**March 12, 2010, 9:30 a.m.**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this administration bill.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** None. No state funds are required to implement this proposal. The Hawai'i
- 3 Immunization Registry (HIR) is supported via a federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 4 Immunizations and Vaccines for Children grant as well as a grant from the Hawaii Medical Services
- 5 Association Foundation.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** The intent of this proposal is to officially establish HIR in the Hawaii
- 7 Revised Statutes and grant the Department and other healthcare providers the authority to include patient
- 8 demographic and immunization information in HIR via implied patient or parent/guardian consent.
- 9 HIR is a secure, confidential, computerized system that has the capability to store immunization
- 10 information for individuals of all ages in the State of Hawai'i. As individuals and families move or
- 11 change health care providers, HIR will consolidate their immunization records, making them easily
- 12 accessible to new immunization providers and ensuring that patients receive the immunizations that they
- 13 need while preventing the receipt of unnecessary doses of vaccines. In the event of an influenza
- 14 pandemic or other public health emergency, HIR will provide the Department with the ability to record,
- 15 track, and monitor the administration of vaccinations as well as the distribution of antiviral and other
- 16 medications. This information is essential for the Department to rapidly assess who has been vaccinated

1 and identify under-immunized populations at risk for disease. This information is especially critical in  
2 public health emergency situations to effectively direct scarce or otherwise limited Departmental  
3 resources to the populations or areas most in need.

4 Per the suggestion of a constituent stakeholder, the Department would like to request that the  
5 definition of "Health care provider" (page one), be amended to include pharmacies. The suggested  
6 definition would read:

7 "Health care provider" means a program, agency, clinic, health care center, pharmacy, physician  
8 licensed under the provisions of chapter 453, advanced practice registered nurse recognized  
9 under the provisions of chapter 457, pharmacist licensed under the provisions of chapter 461,  
10 physician's assistant licensed under the provisions of chapter 453, or person authorized to  
11 practice medicine as a physician or physician's assistant, or nursing as an advanced practice  
12 registered nurse, in federal facilities located in the State, that administers immunizations in  
13 Hawaii.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Email to: [HLTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HLTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Hearing on: March 12, 2010 @ 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

**DATE:** March 10, 2010

**TO:** House Committee on Health  
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Dennis Arakaki, Executive Director

**RE:** SUPPORT FOR SB2729 SD2, Relating to Immunization

Honorable Chair Representative Yamane and members of the House Committee on Health, I am Dennis Arakaki, **representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of over 250 Christian churches. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii. I also speak today in behalf our community partner, the Catholic Schools of Hawaii.

We are in strong support this bill that authorizes the department of Health to establish and maintain a single repository of immunization records to be designated as the Hawaii Immunization Registry.

Health care for children and youth has long been a priority of the House and you, chair Yamane, know as well as I do, that prevention and early intervention not only saves money but saves lengthy and expensive treatment costs when children develop chronic illnesses. It is far better to prevent the illness rather than providing the treatment and cure. This registry, along with other registries that track immunizations, treatment and prevalence related to childhood diseases, will provide valuable information and data regarding effective prevention, intervention and treatment strategies, especially when dealing with pandemic diseases. I urge you to pass this measure and allow the department of health to establish this registry.

Thank you for allowing me to testify and share my mana'o regarding this very critical measure.



## **Hawai'i Primary Care Association**

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### **House Committee on Health**

The Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

## **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2729 SD2**

### **Relating to Immunizations**

**Submitted by Beth Giesting, Chief Executive Officer**

**March 12, 2010 9:30 a.m., Room 329**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association supports this measure, which would create a system that supports timely and appropriate immunizations. This will be particularly useful in helping health care providers clarify whether or not an immunization was previously administered and will reduce duplicate shots.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important bill.



Friday, March 12, 2010  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

RE: SB 2729, SD2 – Relating to Immunization

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

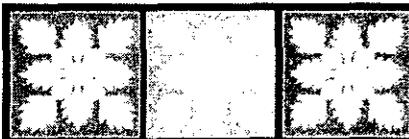
**The Association is in support of Senate Bill 2729, SD2 – Relating to Immunization** which authorizes the Department of Health to establish and maintain a single repository of immunization records to be designated as the “Hawaii Immunization Registry” in order to aid, coordinate, and help promote efficient and cost-effective screening, prevention, and control of vaccine preventable diseases, including pandemic influenza.

The Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR) will help to ensure that all of Hawaii’s people are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. HIR has the capability to store and track immunization information, consolidate immunizations given by multiple providers into one record and make them available to authorized immunization providers.

The Registry will not require any additional reporting by schools; it will reduce school personnel workloads by allowing authorized school personnel access to student immunization information to quickly and easily determine a student’s compliance with Hawaii’s mandatory student immunization requirements.

HAIS believes that establishment of the Hawaii Immunization Registry will protect the health and safety of the public as well as an individual’s right to privacy and the protection of confidential information.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



## Hawaii Association of Health Plans

March 12, 2010

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

**Re: SB 2729 SD2 – Relating to Immunization**

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

My name is Howard Lee and I am President of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans (“HAHP”). HAHP is a non-profit organization consisting of seven (7) member organizations:

AlohaCare	MDX Hawai‘i
Hawaii Medical Assurance Association	University Health Alliance
HMSA	UnitedHealthcare
Hawaii-Western Management Group, Inc.	

Our mission is to promote initiatives aimed at improving the overall health of Hawaii. We are also active participants in the legislative process. Before providing any testimony at a Legislative hearing, all HAHP member organizations must be in unanimous agreement of the statement or position.

HAHP appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2729 SD2 which would establish and maintain a repository of immunization records to assist in the control and prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Many other states have implemented the use of an immunization registry as a means to track and monitor the administration and distribution of vaccinations and other antiviral medications. Information of this type is used during public health emergencies to ensure that scarce resources are directed to those most in need. The registry will also be used by the Department of Health to report to the Centers of Disease Control and Protection.

We believe that this is an extremely important initiative, especially when considering new and emerging diseases such as the H1N1 flu. An immunization registry will assist in the protection of Hawaii’s residents in the case of a public health emergency. As such, we urge the Committee to pass SB 2729 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments today.

Sincerely,

Howard Lee  
President

# HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

March 12, 2010

The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health

**Re: SB 2729 SD2 – Relating to Immunization**

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2729 SD2 which would authorize the Department of Health (DOH) to establish and maintain an immunization registry.

HMSA is involved with many public health initiatives throughout the community and the DOH's work towards creating a "Hawaii Immunization Registry" (HIR) is one such project. The HMSA Foundation provided a three year grant for close to \$600,000 to assist DOH in the planning and implementation of the HIR.

The HIR will be a useful tool to store and track immunization information for individuals of all ages in Hawaii. This information will be kept in a secure, computerized system and used to assist the state in instances of public health emergencies. The HIR will also be able to provide statewide data for the management and reporting of immunization information to many different stakeholders.

HMSA supports this legislation to officially establish the HIR in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, and we respectfully request the Committee pass SB 2729 SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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



Government Relations

Testimony of  
John M. Kirimitsu  
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:  
House Committee on Health  
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

March 12, 2010  
9:30 am  
Conference Room 329

**Re: SB 2729, SD2 Relating to Immunization**

Chair Yamane and committee members thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill relating to immunization.

**Kaiser Permanente supports this bill.**

Kaiser Permanente supports the intent of this bill and appreciates that the Hawaii Immunization Registry will help ensure that Hawaii's population is protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. Kaiser Permanente recognizes that nationwide, immunization registries like the Hawaii Immunization Registry have proven to be valuable tools for the management and reporting of immunization information for parents/guardians, public and private health care providers, and public health professionals.

In particular, Kaiser Permanente agrees that patient immunization information should be available in the Registry without requiring prior patient authorizations for inclusion for purposes of facilitating the transferring of the most accurate and complete information to authorized immunization providers.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Committee: Committee on Health  
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, March 12, 2009, 9:30 a.m.  
Place: Room 329  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii to Offer Comments to S.B. 2729, S.D.2,  
Relating to Immunization

Dear Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee on Health:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes to offer comments to S.B. 2729, S.D. 2.

Medical information is arguably the most personal and private source of data about us, so privacy protections in S.B. 2729 are of paramount importance. Privacy regulations should be particularly stringent so that immunization information cannot be used improperly to harass individuals who have not received immunizations. Some privacy concerns could be allayed by amending this bill to make the database an opt-in system, which requires individuals to act affirmatively, *e.g.* sign a consent form, in order to be included in the program.

Immunizations are an area of medicine that is fraught with controversy. Some may choose not to follow the recommendations of the relevant medical body, *e.g.*, the American Academy of Pediatrics. Others may decline immunizations on religious grounds. In either case, an individual exercises his or her fundamental rights when declining immunizations personally or for his or her children. S.B. 2729 must contain proper safeguards to ensure that the state is not unduly interfering with a number of fundamental rights, including freedom of religion, the right to personal autonomy and the right to rear one's children. We also suggest that "mandatory immunization" be defined with particularity to acknowledge religious and other exemptions.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laurie A. Temple  
Staff Attorney

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