A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE INFORMATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the privacy of health information has been greatly enhanced by the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") and related federal laws and regulations. HIPAA encourages the timely, secure, electronic transmission of individually identifiable health information, with important benefits for patients. The legislature also finds that HIPAA and related federal regulations provide a comprehensive regulatory scheme that protects the privacy of patients' health information while allowing reasonable access by health care providers, health plans, and health-oversight agencies.

The legislature further finds that the safety and protection of the health care consumer are paramount. The federal Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act promotes the development of statewide health care information architecture that allows health care providers to share health care information, improve health care consumer safety, and reduce instances of redundant tests and procedures,
leading to an overall reduction of health care costs while
maintaining privacy and confidentiality in accordance with
HIPAA.

Hawaii has over fifty different laws and rules, however,
that govern health care privacy. This complex array of state
laws and rules unduly burdens health care providers who attempt
to share or access critical information at the point of care and
imposes unnecessary administrative costs and daunting regulatory
burdens without countervailing benefits.

The purpose of this Act is to ensure that covered entities
and their business associates subject to HIPAA, who use or
disclose health information in a manner permitted by and
consistent with HIPAA's Privacy Rule (45 C.F.R. Part 164,
subpart E) shall be deemed to be acting in compliance with state
privacy laws and regulations, including section 334-5, Hawaii
Revised Statutes, regarding the use and disclosure of mental
health records; section 333E-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
regarding the use and disclosure of developmental disabilities
records; and section 325-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding
the use and disclosure of records related to the human
immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome
(AIDS), and AIDS-related complex.
SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"CHAPTER

HEALTH CARE PRIVACY HARMONIZATION ACT

§ -1 Applicability. This chapter shall apply, unless amended by specific reference to this chapter or any section thereof.

§ -2 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

"Breach" has the same meaning as in 45 Code of Federal Regulations section 164.02, as may be amended.

"Business associate" has the same meaning as in 45 Code of Federal Regulations section 160.103, as may be amended.

"Covered entity" has the same meaning as in 45 Code of Federal Regulations section 160.103, as may be amended.

"Disclosure" has the same meaning as in 45 Code of Federal Regulations section 160.03, as may be amended.

"Health information" has the same meaning as in 45 Code of Federal Regulations section 160.103, as may be amended.

"Individually identifiable health information" has the same meaning as in 45 Code of Federal Regulations section 160.103, as may be amended.
"Unsecured protected health information" has the same
meaning as in 45 Code of Federal Regulations section 164.402, as
may be amended.

"Use" has the same meaning as in 45 Code of Federal
Regulations section 160.103, as may be amended.

§ 3 Privacy of individually identifiable health
information. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any
use or disclosure of individually identifiable health
information by any covered entity or business associate that is
permitted by 45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 164, Subpart E,
shall be deemed to comply with all state laws relating to the
use, disclosure, or confidentiality of such information.

(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an
authorization for release of individually identifiable health
information that complies with 45 Code of Federal Regulations
section 164.508 shall be deemed to comply with all state laws
relating to individual authorization.

(c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any notice of
breach of unsecured protected health information that complies
with 45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 164, Subpart D, shall
be deemed to comply with all state laws relating to notice of
breach of protected health information.
§ 4 Relationship to other laws. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to:

(1) Authorize the disclosure of individually identifiable health information to the extent that disclosure is restricted by federal law or regulations, including federal regulations about the confidentiality of information about drugs and alcohol, as set forth in 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2;

(2) Compel the disclosure of individually identifiable health information that is not required by law to be disclosed;

(3) Require a written authorization for release of individually identifiable health information or de-identified information to the extent that the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), and its related regulations, as may be amended, does not require such authorization;

(4) Limit or otherwise affect any state law that:

(A) Requires persons or entities to report disease, injury, child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, birth, or death; or
(B) Governs public health surveillance,
    investigation, or intervention;

(5) Limit or otherwise affect health plan reporting,
    including reporting required for purposes of state
    management or financial audits; or

(6) Limit or otherwise affect any evidentiary privilege,
    limitation on discovery, or confidentiality protection
    provided by any state law, decision, or order in
    relation to individually identifiable health
    information sought, used, or produced in any judicial
    or administrative proceeding."

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.
Report Title:
Health Care Information; Privacy

Description:
Clarifies that persons and entities governed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), who use or disclose individually identifiable health information in a manner that is consistent with HIPAA regulations, shall be deemed to be in compliance with Hawaii's privacy laws and rules. Effective January 1, 2050. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.