

GET Committee

From: tbh <tbhawaiiowan@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:09 AM
To: GET Committee
Cc: singlepayerhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Please support reso to submit bill to 2021 state legislature to create single payer health care system in HI

Aloha,

I strongly support the efforts of Maui County to take the lead in an effort to create a universal single-payer health care system covering all residents of Hawaii, based on citizenship rather than employment, need (low-income) or age.

As a member of the Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, I hope your bill will first focus on the reinstatement of the currently dormant Hawaii Healthcare Authority, and empower it to research and develop the best option or model for Hawaii's circumstances, and then report their findings and recommendations to the state legislature, the State Department of Health, and the general public, including health care practitioners, healthcare consumers, and current health insurance providers, among other stakeholders.

Your efforts to lead the way on this very important issue is greatly appreciated because you can provide the guidance need to make universal health care a statewide reality sooner rather than later because I think it is already now, more than ever, just a matter of when, not if, universal health care becomes part of the foundation for a redesigned 21st-century social safety net that is more resilient and adaptable in a wider range of plausible alternative future scenarios, especially one in which non-unionized "gig economy" workers who are classified by employers as self-employed independent contractors.

Mahalo nui loa!

Thomas Brandt
DPH Health Committee member
Honolulu, HI