

## GET Committee

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**From:** Tamara Paltin <paltinoffice@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:46 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Response to Draft MedQUEST Hawaii Quality Strategy 2020.docx  
**Attachments:** Response to Draft MedQUEST Hawaii Quality Strategy 2020.docx

Get 3(2) & 4(2)

Sent from my iPhone

August 24, 2020

**Testimony Supporting Medicare For All  
(Item #3 on Agenda for August 25, 2020)**

**Government, Ethics, and Transparency Committee  
Maui County Council  
Hawaii State Association of Counties Legislative Package 2021 GET-3(2)**

Mahalo for considering inclusion of a proposed resolution entitled “***A Bill To Create A Single Payer Health Care System Covering All Hawaii Residents***” .

The bill is the result of extensive research, both locally and nationally, regarding the respective impacts of two distinct approaches to health care. The first is the one Hawaii once enjoyed, with among the lowest-cost premiums and health care costs, and the highest access to health care, in the nation, prior to adopting the second, a “reform” pre-funded liability scheme, in an effort to be compatible with the Affordable Care Act. This required going from straightforward reimbursement for health care services to an insurance industry mediated payment justification scheme requiring hours of paperwork that is driving health care professionals from Hawaii practice with a consequent growing shortage of nurses and doctors. Also as a consequence, our premiums and health care costs have gone from a long-term stable state to rising steadily.

The task of redesigning a system to comport with present-day realities falls, by statute, to the Hawaii Health Authority, which has made strides in approaching a solution that protects all care providers and preserves patient choice, but substitutes a simple administrative system to pay the fees for service. With a change in administrations anticipated and the rise of a major federal initiative to simplify and improve the system of reimbursement, changes are coming. The public wants it, and it has been shown effective right here in Hawaii.

Your inclusion of this effort in the county association legislative package is a valuable step to restore life to the Hawaii Health Authority. We need to return Hawaii to a simpler and less expensive system, which also improves the retention of health care personnel and general public access to health care, even in rural communities. A team of health professionals is prepared to help you understand the issues through informational meetings.

On behalf of the Health Committee of the Hawaii Democratic Party,

Charley Ice  
Former O’ahu Region 5 Chair (Representative Districts 32, 33, 34, & 35)  
Waimalu, Puuloa, O’ahu