



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health  
Friday, January 27, 2012  
9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol - Conference Room 329**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1736 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH INSURANCE  
EXCHANGE**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") supports HB 1736 relating to the Hawaii Health Insurance Exchange.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Quality healthcare is vital to the welfare of Hawaii's citizens and its economy. It provides essential and critical care for our families and serves to attract and retain Hawaii's professional workforce, new companies, and even tourists to our state. As such, the health care industry also plays a crucial role in the economic development and sustainability of our state and all of Hawaii's businesses. Therefore, it is critical that we continue to support improvements to the healthcare system and ensure access to medical care.

As such, the Chamber fully supports HB 1736 and the proposed changes. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.