

HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee

Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230, 10:30am
Meeting With Senator Baker
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee Chair

Members present at meeting:

- Hoce Kalkas
- Nancy Partika
- Cindy Goto
- John Jones
- Linda Reedy

Meeting Discussion Points on behalf of HPHA Legislative Committee:

Goals of the HPHA Legislative Committee for 2016 include:

- Represent a public health perspective to legislators and the community
- Move public health efforts in Hawaii in the direction of health equity and a health-in-all-policies perspective
- Improve key public health issues in Hawaii through the legislative process
- Provide evidence-based testimony on public health issues

Priorities the HPHA Legislative Committee is considering for 2016, based on membership and committee surveys:

- Access to healthy foods and increased physical activity to include built environment
- Childhood health (school, obesity prevention, etc.)
- Increased access to primary care for underserved populations

Discussion with Senator Baker

Upcoming health priorities within the Senate:

1. OTC Oral Contraceptives – Senator Baker is drafting a bill that will introduce oral contraception to be offered via pharmacy; specific details unknown, but provisions will be needed to ensure that there is some form of insurance or payment coverage for this option.
 - Several organizations have verbally expressed support with this idea: Hawai'i Women's Coalition, Dr. Racheal Wong-DHS, Dr. Ginny Pressler-DOH, and a few others.

- Another added benefit- more pharmacists will soon be added to the workforce, graduating from UH Hilo's College of Pharmacy, added Sen. Baker.
 - Recent Bill on OTC Oral Contraceptive gets passed in Oregon – WKRN — Oregon becomes first state to make birth control available over-the-counter :Oregon women no longer need to go to their doctor to get a prescription for birth control as of Jan 1. “Just having birth control accessible through a pharmacist doesn't mean preventative health care isn't important. That's not what this law is saying,” said Dr. Alison Edelman of OHSU. She supports the new law, which “is really allowing increased access to women for something that's incredibly safe and a really big need for women.” In July, Gov. Kate Brown signed into law a bill allowing women to purchase birth control without a doctor's prescription.
2. Tele-health – Senator Baker may introduce a resolution to foster tele-health options throughout the state. This will enable access for providers and patients in non-clinical settings.
 - Currently there is no existing law which addresses this issue; dialogue needs to start.
 3. School health – currently an issue that needs more time, but Senator Baker encourages the conversation to move forward. As is, the structure of the relationship with school health between the DOH and the DOE is dysfunctional – there are many moving parts, as Nancy mentioned. Senator Baker agreed that both the expansion of public health nurse roles in schools and increased training opportunities for school health aids are needed in the future.
 - Senator Baker recommended the Committee talk story with Senator Michelle Kidani regarding this topic.

SB841, HB698 HD1 - was introduced in 2015 aiming to establish an interagency working group between the DOH and the DOE, specifically to improve the delivery of school health services and establish a comprehensive school health program. HB698 HD1 testimony reflects that the Hawaii Primary Care Association and Hawaii Public Health Institute supported this measure. The Department of Education and University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene supported the intent of the measure. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs supported the measure with amendments. The Department of Health submitted comments. Further research and review is needed by our Committee.