

Health Care Task Force
Office of the Insurance Commissioner
October 25, 2005
State Capitol, Room 211
4:30 to 6:00 PM

Minutes

In Attendance: Gary Allen, Patricia Blanchette, Lynn Finnegan, Susan Forbes, Josh Green, Roseanne Harrigan, David Heywood, J.P. Schmidt, Calvin Wong

Staff Support: Laurel Johnston, Carol Taniguchi and Gladys Quinto, Hawaii Uninsured Project, Miki Lee, Leeway Enterprise, James Nagle, Department of Attorney General, Lloyd Lim, Office of the Insurance Commissioner

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Josh Green called the meeting to order at 4:36 PM with eight of the 13 members present.

II. Review and Approval of October 12, 2005 Minutes

Susan Forbes made a motion to approve the minutes. Gary Allen seconded and the Task Force voted unanimously to approve the October 12, 2005 Minutes.

III. Public Testimony

Charles Huxel, Stephen Shaw, Jean Aoki (League of Women Voters), Nancy Walden, George Simson, Renee Furuyama (NASW- Hawaii), Dayle Bethel, Jory Watland, AQ McElrath, Renee Ing (PNHP – Hawaii), Margaret Brezel, Bill Woods, Patrice Nagley, Jim Brewer, James Olson, Chris Pablo (Kaiser Permanente and HUP)

IV. Report from Hawaii Uninsured Project

Mr. Paul Tom provided a brief overview of the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act. The Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act is designed to address the needs of those who are fully employed (over 20 hours per week for 4 consecutive weeks) and does not address others who do not meet the minimum employment threshold. Changing the threshold is considered a substantive change to the law and will require both State and Federal (due to the ERISA exemption awarded to the state by Congress) action, which would be unlikely.

Mr. Tom offered to return to the Task Force to answer other questions related to the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act that may arise. Dr. Russo offered to answer specific questions the Task Force has and suggested they submit a list of specific questions.

V. Act 233, Scope of Work, Phases and Tasks

J.P. Schmidt reported that the subcommittee that had been formed at the October 12, 2005 meeting was not able to meet prior to this task force meeting. To help move the process forward, Mr. Schmidt drafted a standard RFP that incorporated language from House Bill 1617, HD 1 (2003), along with issues and suggestions raised by the Task Force at earlier meetings. The draft was submitted to the Task Force members for review and consideration.

J.P. Schmidt made a motion to approve the draft RFP. Roseanne Harrigan seconded and the Task Force voted unanimously to approve the draft RFP.

VI. Insurance Options

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

VII. Future Meetings

In order to allow more time for the Task Force to progress, a suggestion was made to extend the length of future meetings, either by starting earlier and/or ending later. Alternative meeting locations will be investigated, as needed, to allow for evening meetings. The Task Force discussed the need to manage public testimony in a manner that allows public comment, while also allowing the Task Force time to meet and conduct its work. Suggestions for management included adjusting the time allowed for testimony based on the number of people that sign up to provide testimony.

The Task Force agreed to meet on November 2 and 16, 2005. These meetings will begin at 4:00 p.m. Location of the next meeting to be determined. Since a 6-day notice requirement must be met, Task Force members were asked to submit agenda items to Laurel Johnston ASAP.

VIII. Adjournment

Chairperson Josh Green adjourned the Task Force meeting at 6:09 PM.