



LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION

February 2010

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GOING ON IN THE SENATE

A number of very interesting bills are being considered in the Legislature right now. Here are a few. To view their status or other bills, visit capitol.hawaii.gov. These bills are in committees of which Senator Espero is a member.

Nursing—SB 2163

SB 2163 would institute changes to the law regarding the practice of nursing. It would repeal the current Hawaii Administrative Rules relating to prescriptive authority for advanced practice nurses and amend the definition of "advance practice nurse with prescriptive authority." It defines the practice of nursing, delineates the scope of nursing and directs the state board of nursing to adopt certain provisions of the national model nursing practice act and administrative rules.

Telemedicine—SB 2491

Technology brings increased access to care. SB 2491 clarifies telehealth within the practice of medicine, and allows telehealth coverage under medical malpractice insurance.

Pharmacists—SB 2390

SB 2390 broadens the experience requirements relating to the practice of pharmacy to include pharmaceutical experience obtained in U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, as well as supervision outside of a pharmacy .

Pharmacies—SB 2811

SB 2811 requires all pharmacies and remote dispensing pharmacies to be able to accommodate electronic prescriptions and maintain prescription records electronically.

Insurance—SB 2698

SB 2698 mandates the offer of health insurance coverage for dependents up to age 27 at the option of the parents.

Health Insurance Premiums—SB 2271

SB 2271 attempts to increase the accountability of insurance companies by requiring an annual premium transparency report and creating a health information data clearinghouse.

Teeth Whitening—SB 2188

Teeth whitening will be included in the practice of dentistry per SB 2188.

Mammograms—SB 2343

SB 2343 bars insurers from requiring a doctor's referral for mammograms for covered patients over 40 years old.

Shipping Container Inspections—SB 2936

The Departments of Transportation and Defense would be authorized to inspect shipping containers.

Public Accountancy—SB 2501

SB 2501 would allow periodic peer review upon renewals of practice permits for certified public accountants.

Hawaii National Guard—SB 2135

SB 2135 establishes a school liaison officer within the Hawaii National Guard and appropriates funds for it.

Health Clubs—SB 2137

Military active duty personnel deployed outside Hawaii can cancel or suspend their health club membership at any time during the contract term under certain conditions. Pro rated fee refunds are mandated for such cancellations or suspensions.

Medical Cannabis—SB 2141

Under SB 2141, a qualifying patient would be allowed to possess 10 cannabis plants and 5 ounces of cannabis at any given time. The measure prohibits the Department of Public Safety from requiring that the patient's primary care physician be the doctor that certifies the patient's need for medical cannabis. It also prohibits certifying physicians from naming or describing a patient's debilitating condition. A caregiver would be allowed to grow cannabis for no more than four patients.

Vexatious Requests—SB 2937

SB 2937 establishes an abuse of process law for vexatious requesters of public records.

Fireworks—SB 2365 & SB 2052

SB 2365 would impose a total ban on consumer fireworks except for permitted religious or cultural purposes, and allows counties to opt out of the ban. SB 2052 clarifies the definition of "cultural" to include religious events, increases fines for violations, increases fireworks permit fees, and dedicates those permit fees collected to counties for law enforcement purposes.

Anatomical Gifts—SB 2774

Permits organ donations from HIV or AIDS patients to another HIV or AIDS, and requires procurement organizations to maintain donor lists including high risk donors and persons with HIV or AIDS.

MESSAGE FROM SENATOR ESPERO

The 2010 Session is upon us. The Legislature is primed to deal with many issues, with the economy and its impact on the State budget at the forefront of the list. As always I continue to work hard to promote the well-being of our district and the concerns of our residents. If there is anything I can assist you with, please call my office at 586-6360 or send an e-mail at senespero@capitol.hawaii.gov.