

TO: Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

FROM: The Honolulu County Medical Association
John Rausch, MD, President

RE: SB 2694 Relating to Excise Tax on Healthcare

DATE:

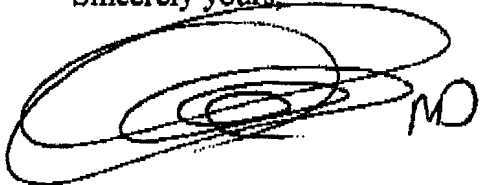
My name is John Rausch, MD. I am the President of the Honolulu County Medical Society (HCMS), as well as a practicing physician on Oahu.

One of the primary elements of the HCMS mission is to promote the betterment of public health. In this regard, we support without reservation the passage of SB 2694, to exempt medical services from the county surcharge increase in general excise tax.

As treating physicians, we are well aware of the financial challenges faced by patients in retaining their insurance coverage and meeting their co-payment obligations. Increasing the general excise tax on medical services to support transportation projects on Oahu only makes it more difficult for those who can least afford to pay another medical bill.

HCMS urges you to support this important legislation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John Rausch MD", with several overlapping loops and a distinct "MD" at the end.

John Rausch, MD
President, Honolulu County Medical Association