



Policy Leaders Recognized During National Health IT Week for their Support of Health IT

September 17, 2014

Washington, DC (September 17, 2014) – Offering consistent and visionary support for improving health with IT, three policy leaders will receive one of the HIMSS Health Information Technology Leadership Awards during the 9th National Health IT Week in Washington, D.C. The awards ceremony will be held at the **National Health IT Week Awards and Partners Reception** on Sept. 17. In addition, the recipient of the College of Healthcare Information Management (CHIME) Executives Federal Public Policy Award for CIO Leadership will also be recognized during this event.

“Each year during National Health IT Week, HIMSS honors public policy leaders whose dedication and commitment to improving health through IT has made a positive difference in the transformation of healthcare. We recognize these three individuals because their individual achievements at the congressional, federal and state levels support our unified cause to advance effective, quality, cost-effective and accessible patient care with IT,” says Carla Smith, MA, CNM, FHIMSS, Executive Vice President, HIMSS North America.

HIMSS State Legislator of the Year Award recipient: *State Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senate District 6, South and West Maui*

Senator Roz Baker has represented the people of Maui County in the Hawai'i State Legislature for over 21 years serving in a variety of leadership positions. She is Chair of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee and has been a long-time advocate for issues that affect the quality of life for the average person, such as access to healthcare and community issues, such as care for elders.

Senator Baker has been pivotal in developing health policy for the state, serving for four years as Senate Health Chair from 2002-2006 and currently serving as vice-chair of the Senate health committee. She has served on several national committees addressing access to care issues including the Subcommittee on Pediatric Emergency Care of the Institute for Medicine's Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the US Health System that issued its report in 2006.

Supportive of health IT over the years, she was instrumental in supporting the Hawaii Health Information Exchange and most recently sponsored [Senate Concurrent Resolution 36](#) which recognizes the Hawaii Health Information Exchange as the State-Designated Health Information Exchange. Senator Baker has been closely engaged with HIMSS on both the national and local level by attending HIMSS Hawaii-Alaska chapter events, meeting with HIMSS members in both the capitol and her district, along with attending HIMSS' Annual Conference.



HAWAII-ALASKA *Chapter*

The Senator paired with HIMSS members to acknowledge Hawaii Pacific Health, a 2012 Davies award winner through a 2013 State resolution and has supported Hawaii health IT legislation through her role with 2014 Senate Bill 2469, which Requires equivalent reimbursement for services, including behavioral health services, provided through telehealth as for the same services provided via face-to-face contact between a health care provider and a patient.



"I'm honored to have been selected as the recipient of this award and thank my colleagues at the legislature and the advocates who work so hard to better the lives of the people of Hawaii," said West and South Maui Sen. Roz Baker.

"It's imperative that our society adapts to the changes that developing technologies bring to the table," said Baker.

"Healthcare IT isn't about the systems in place; it's about making them work efficiently and effectively to help the people who need them most. Ensuring that our state policies do this is a commitment I made as a state lawmaker and chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection." *Quotes are from Lahaina News August 14, 2014*

About National Health Information Technology Week

Now in its ninth year, National Health IT Week is a collaborative forum assembling key healthcare constituents—vendors, provider organizations, payers, pharmaceutical/biotech companies, government agencies, industry/professional associations, research foundations, and consumer protection groups — working together to elevate national attention to the necessity of advancing health IT. Please log onto www.healthitweek.org for more information.