

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 17, 2006

RE: H.B. No. 3140
H.D. 2

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 3140, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to prepare and protect the people of Hawaii from a pandemic of a novel strain of influenza.

The Department of Health and Healthcare Association Hawaii supported this bill.

In light of the current health concerns regarding avian flu, your Committee finds that it is imperative that the State prepare for this oncoming threat as Hawaii is a popular destination for many citizens of Asia and Europe, where this virus has already been linked to the death of adults and children.

Any and all necessary support that can be gained for a state initiative to acquire antiviral medications is warranted in preparation for a potential pandemic of a novel strain of influenza. Because this will be a costly and on-going program, more thought should be given to the possibility that healthcare insurers should be requested to fund and reimburse the State for the use of antiviral medications collected by the State to battle this health threat. Also, a revolving fund should be considered as a method of paying for the acquisition of medications, mass clinic supplies, laboratory supplies and equipment, personal

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protective equipment, a data management system for tracing cases and contacts, and any other costs related to preparing for and facing an influenza pandemic in our island state.

Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to \$1 to encourage further discussion;
- (2) Appropriating the funds for fiscal year 2006-2007;
- (3) Revising the date on which the funds lapse to June 30, 2008; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 3140, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 3140, H.D. 2, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,


DENNIS A. ARAKAKI, Chair



