

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR - 3 2006

RE: S.B. No. 2764
S.D. 2

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 2764, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRAUMA CARE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a trauma system special fund with a dedicated source of revenue to support the continuing development and operation of a comprehensive state trauma system, including the subsidization of documented uncompensated costs incurred by hospitals to provide trauma services and maintain on-call physicians to provide trauma care.

Your Committee understands that hospitals and physicians who provide trauma care have been absorbing significant uncompensated costs for many years. While reimbursements for trauma care from health plans, managed care, Medicare, Medicaid, and safety net programs for the uninsured have dramatically decreased, the costs of delivering trauma care have consistently increased. In Hawaii, The Queen's Medical Center incurs an annual loss of about \$6,000,000 in the trauma care area. This is of concern because The Queen's Medical Center is the only trauma center in the State.

Uncompensated trauma care is also one of the primary reasons for the shortage of physicians who are willing to be on call to trauma centers. A shortage of on-call physicians jeopardizes a trauma team's ability to provide appropriate trauma care, thus exposing patients to increased risk of harm.



Your Committee finds that several states have dedicated sources of funding for their trauma funds, including surcharges tacked on to fees for drivers' licenses, motor vehicle registration renewals, and the sale, lease, or transfer of motor vehicles.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the dedicated funding amount from annual motor vehicle registration fees to an unspecified amount to facilitate further discussion;
- (2) Changing the appropriation to the trauma system special fund to an unspecified amount to facilitate further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, style, and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2764, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2764, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,




BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Third Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes of the
Committee on Ways and Means
(Bills and Resolutions)

Measure:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2764 SD1	HTH/HMS, WAM	2/28/06		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is to:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (2312) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (2311) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold (2310) <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit (2313)				
Members	Ayes	Ayes(WR)	Nays	Excused
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (C)	/			
TSUTSUI, Shan S. (VC)	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	/			
ESPERO, Will	/			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/			
HOOSER, Gary L.				/
INOUE, Lorraine R.	/			
KANNO, Brian				/
KIM, Donna Mercado	/			
KOKUBUN, Russell S.	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	/			
SAKAMOTO, Norman	/			
HEMMINGS, Fred				/
SLOM, Sam			/	
TRIMBLE, Gordon			/	
TOTAL	10	0	2	3
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Do not list more than one measure per Record of Votes.