

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 248 -08

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 28, 2008

RE: H.B. No. 1598
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 1598
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTHCARE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to provide universal health care
for all Hawaii residents.

Specifically, this bill creates a unified, single-payer,
universal health care insurance system, similar to the health care
system in Canada, and administered by the State Healthcare
Insurance Planning and Financing Authority, trustee-members of
which are elected, using a universal healthcare provision fund to
cover medically necessary health care for all permanent Hawaii
residents. The bill prohibits private health care insurers from
duplicating the coverage provided by the universal health care
insurance system. The bill transfers the functions of the State
Health Planning and Development Authority to the State Healthcare
Insurance Planning and Financing Authority and assigns the
Authority as the state liaison with the federal Centers for
Medicare and Medicaid Services. The bill further transfers the
functions of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund
to the Authority. The Authority is required to assess temporary
progressive income and general excise surtaxes for start-up and
maintenance of the universal healthcare system.



Your Committee received testimony in support of this bill from a councilmember of the Hawaii County Council, the Hawaii County Council, the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans, the Progressive Democrats of Hawaii, Physicians for a National Health Program, Americans for Democratic Action, Hawaii Chapter, and fifteen individuals. Testimony in opposition was received from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Department of Budget and Finance, the Hawaii Medical Association, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, and the Hawaii Association of Health Plans. The Attorney General and the ILWU Local 142 offered comments.

Upon further consideration, your Committee has amended this bill by amending the effective date to July 1, 2050 for the purpose of stimulating further discussion.

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. 1598, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1598, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

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



JOSHUA B. GREEN, M.D., Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Twenty-fourth Legislature

HSCR 248-08

Record of Votes of the Committee on Health

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1598	Committee Referral: HLT, CPC, FIN	Date: 2-6-08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GREEN, Josh, M.D. (C)	✓			
2. MIZUNO, John (VC)	✓			
3. AWANA, Karen Leinani	✓			
4. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
5. BERTRAM, Joe, III	✓			
6. CABANILLA, Rida T.R.	✓			
7. RHOADS, Karl	✓			
8. SHIMABUKURO, Maile S. L.				✓
9. TOKIOKA, James Kunane		✓		
10. WARD, Gene, Ph.D.			✓	
TOTAL (10)	7	1	1	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>John M. DeGuzman</u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				