

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 20 2008

RE: H.B. No. 2727
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B.
No. 2727, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to ensure that children
diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders have access to quality
health care services and treatment.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Requires health insurers to provide coverage for autism
spectrum disorders; and
- (2) Establishes the temporary autism disorders spectrum
benefits and coverage task force to discuss and seek
input on the problems faced by parents of children with
autism and what can be done to ensure that proper
benefits and services are provided through public and
private resources to address the special needs of
children with autism, including providing services
involving applied behavioral analyses techniques.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Autism Speaks, and
seventeen individuals. Your Committee received testimony in
opposition to this measure from the Department of Health and



Hawaii Medical Service Association. The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Kaiser Permanente, and Hawaii Association of Health Plans submitted comments on this measure.

Your Committee finds that section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), requires that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health insurance coverage for specific health services, specific diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part of individual or group health insurance policies, can be considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage."

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that mandates health care coverage for autism spectrum disorders; and
- (2) Clarifying that the task force is to research health insurance coverage plans that cover autism spectrum disorders in other states and develop a plan of services that health insurers should be mandated to cover.

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. 2727, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2727, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing.

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




DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 2727 HD 2	Committee Referral: HTH, CPH	Date: 3/19/08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <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	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
MENOR, Ron				✓
WHALEN, Paul	✓			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes