

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02 2007

RE: S.B. No. 1673  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 1673 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to provide equal access to immunosuppressant medication for Medicaid patients with HIV, AIDS, or Hepatitis C, or who require immunosuppressives due to organ transplants, regardless of whether they are in the QUEST or Medicaid Fee-For-Service programs.

The Department of Human Services, the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, the American Liver Foundation, the Hepatitis Support Network of Hawaii, and one individual submitted testimony in support of this measure. The Hawaii Association of Health Plans submitted testimony in opposition. The Hawaii Medical Service Association submitted comments.

Your Committee finds that while the current law exempts physicians prescribing immunosuppressant medication from preauthorization procedures under Medicaid, an exclusion pertaining to QUEST medical plans restricts QUEST Medicaid recipients' access to immunosuppressant medication. This measure will provide equal access to immunosuppressant medication for Medicaid patients with HIV, AIDS, or Hepatitis C, or who require immunosuppressives due to organ transplants, regardless of whether they are in the QUEST or Medicaid Fee-For-Service programs.



It is your Committee's intent to support equal access to immunosuppressant medication for this population of QUEST Medicaid recipients. Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive changes for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1673, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1673, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

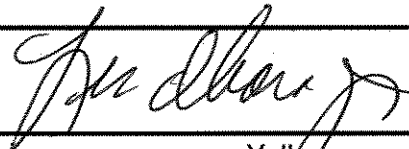
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Human Services and  
Public Housing,

*Suzanne Chun Oakland*  
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services and Public Housing**  
**HSP**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 1673</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HSP</b>	Date: <b>2-13-07</b>		
<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
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
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