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LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH  
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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2008

Wednesday, January 23, 2008  
8:00 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2119 – RELATING TO ANATOMICAL  
TRANSPLANTS.**

TO THE HONORABLE JOSH GREEN, M.D., CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE:

My name is J. P. Schmidt, State Insurance Commissioner (“Commissioner”),  
testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
(“Department”). The Department takes no position on this bill, which prohibits an  
insurer from denying or limiting coverage for organ or tissue transplantation services on  
the basis that the insured is infected with the human immunodeficiency virus.

The Department does not have the medical expertise necessary to express an  
informed opinion on the merits of this bill. In addition, mandated benefits help some  
patients, but also increase premiums for consumers. Weighing these complex issues is  
best left to the wisdom of the Legislature.

We thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.



## Hawaii Association of Health Plans

January 23, 2008

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
The Honorable John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

**Re: HB 2119 – Relating to Anatomical Transplants**

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rick Jackson and I am President of the Hawaii Association of Health Plans (“HAHP”). HAHP is a non-profit organization consisting of seven (7) member organizations:

AlohaCare  
Hawaii Management Alliance Association  
HMSA  
Hawaii-Western Management Group, Inc.

MDX Hawai‘i  
University Health Alliance  
UnitedHealthcare

Our mission is to promote initiatives aimed at improving the overall health of Hawaii. We are also active participants in the legislative process. Before providing any testimony at a Legislative hearing, all HAHP member organizations must be in unanimous agreement of the statement or position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2119, which would prohibit health plans from denying or limiting coverage for organ transplant services to members infected with HIV. We are not aware of any medical practice guideline or hospital provider or health plan in Hawai‘i that has ever attempted to limit the availability of medically necessary transplant services to a member infected with HIV. This bill addresses a problem that does not exist in Hawai‘i. Transplant patients, all transplant patients, must meet a minimum level of criteria to even be placed on the waiting list for the procedure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Rick Jackson  
President

# HMSA



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

January 23, 2008

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
The Honorable John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

**Re: HB 2119 – Relating to Anatomical Transplants**

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 2119 which would prohibit health plans from denying or limiting coverage for transplant services based on a member's HIV status.

Health plan coverage for transplant services are based on medical necessity criteria. Any HMSA member seeking an organ transplant would be required to meet a certain level of criteria in order to be approved for the transplant. HMSA does not discriminate on the basis of an individuals' HIV status.

The language contained in HB 2119 would seemingly remove a plan's ability to require a member meet the medical necessity criteria for all transplant patients.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2119.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD", written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Diesman  
Director, Government Relations

# ***GLEA FOUNDATION***

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## **The Gay and Lesbian Education and Advocacy Foundation Information, Referral and Support Programs**

**William E. Woods-Bateman, MPH  
Executive Director**

January 22, 2008

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2119

TO: House Committee on Health – for Wednesday 1-23-08 8 AM

FROM: GLEA Foundation  
William E. Woods-Bateman, Executive Director

Organ transplants have profoundly changed the future of thousands of Americans. Hawaii prohibits preventing transplants for many protected classes, however does not include having HIV status. The GLEA Foundation supports the passage of HB2119 to amend the statutes to add HIV status to the protected classes.

There are now numerous persons who had transplants after being determined to have HIV/AIDS. Some are living in Hawaii right now.

HIV/AIDS has moved from a condition with very short life expectancy to one that is considered chronic and in many cases controlled. People living with AIDS/HIV are living 10-15-25 years after infection. Times and reality of this disease have changed significantly, thus the need for equitable coverage for organ transplants.

Again, the GLEA Foundation fully supports HB2119 to be passes to promote better health and quality of life.