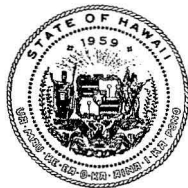


LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

### H.B. 2283, RELATING TO TATTOO ARTISTS

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health

February 25, 2008  
2:45 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** We support the bill with reservations. This is a change from our initial  
position of opposition.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** An increase in funding and staffing will be required to adequately effect the  
4 changes this bill would require for investigating the background of unlicensed tattoo artists applying for  
5 temporary certificates of registration to perform tattooing in Hawaii.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The intent of this bill is to allow unlicensed tattoo artists to practice  
7 tattooing in Hawaii without a valid Hawaii State Tattoo License for a period of 14 (fourteen) calendar  
8 days.

9         Given the maturity of the industry and its ability to practice in a sanitary manner, we would like  
10 to change the previous opposition of this bill to one of support with reservations. Our information  
11 regarding infection rates from tattoos [Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) and DOH  
12 Disease Investigation Branch] show that commercial tattoo artists are not responsible for significant  
numbers of transmitted infections. We recommend that the regulatory system for licensing of all tattoo

artists in Hawaii be changed from licensing to one of registration whereby the department has means to  
2 keep track of practitioners.

3 We would also like to add that licensing of individuals is only one law facing tattoo artists who  
4 want to practice in Hawaii. Our regulations only allow tattooing in a permitted tattoo establishment.  
5 There are no provisions for a temporary tattoo shop in a convention or trade show type setting.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.