



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

H.B. 2283, Relating To Tattoo Artists

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

January 30, 2008
8:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health respectfully opposes the bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** An increase in funding and staffing will be required to adequately implement the
3 requirements of this bill, to investigate the background of unlicensed tattoo artists applying for
4 temporary certificates of registration to in Hawaii.

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

7 The Department does not support this bill because it would not be in the best interest of the
8 public. The bill would lower the State's standards for licensing of tattoo artists by allowing unlicensed
9 tattoo artists to operate in Hawaii, even on a temporary basis. It should also be noted that there are no
10 national standards for the licensing and regulating of tattoo artists.

11 The Department understands that public health would be further served if it would concentrate its
12 efforts on the sanitary inspections of the facilities and equipment at the tattoo establishments rather than
13 regulating the occupation.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.