



Representative Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Representative John A. Mizuno, Vice-chair  
Committee on Health  
Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

Friday, February 8, 2008

**Supporting the intent of HB 2286, Relating to Epilepsy Disease Services, and offering substantive amendments**

Hawaii Centers for Independent Living is a non-profit organization operated by and for people with disabilities to ensure their rights to live independently and fully integrated in the community of their choice, outside of institutional care settings. As a non-profit, statewide resource, HCIL serves people of any age with any type of disability. HCIL was founded on the historical constitutional beliefs of civil rights and the empowerment of people with disabilities to have equal access, opportunities, and choices in life, no matter how severe their disability.

We support the intent of HB2286, Relating to Epilepsy Disease Services, and wish to offer substantive amendments.

These amendments would: a) transfer the epilepsy program from the department of health to the department of human services; b) eliminate the epilepsy special fund and replace it with a simple appropriation to DHS; c) change the composition of the epilepsy advisory committee to better reflect the variety of stakeholders in this issue, rather than primarily the medical community; and d) replace some of the language, such as “devastating”, “afflicts”, “victims”, and “suffering”, that is demeaning and offensive to people with epilepsy.

We urge the committee to pass HB2286 with a House draft reflecting our grave concerns with the bill as written. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.