



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

LATE TESTIMONY

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

S.B. 1805, S.D. 1, Relating to Genetic Counselors

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

March 24, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) cannot support this measure. The  
2 Department notes that DOH is not the appropriate agency to license genetic counselors or other  
3 healthcare providers, and that licensure may be unnecessary, since genetic counselors in Hawaii undergo  
4 board certification by the American Board of Genetic Counselors (ABGC).

5 **Fiscal Implications:** Although the fiscal impact would be minimal, this is not an appropriate DOH  
6 responsibility.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to add licensure as an additional qualification for  
8 genetic counselors in Hawaii. Formally trained genetic counselors help families and health care  
9 providers properly apply genetic testing and the information derived from it. Families benefit by  
10 receiving counseling by appropriately trained genetic counselors, thus enabling them to make informed  
11 decisions about genetic testing.

12 The DOH is not the appropriate agency to oversee this licensure process.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.