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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2008

Friday, February 8, 2008  
1:15 p.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2119 – RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE.**

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, 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 creates a mandated benefit for oral chemotherapy treatment.

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. It should also be noted that prior to enacting mandatory health insurance coverage, there must be a review by the Legislative Auditor pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes section 23-51.

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