

**testimony**

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**From:** Naomi Grossman [naomi\_grossman@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2008 12:35 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony from the Autism Society of Hawaii for SCR 196 Senate Committees on Health and Commerce Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing being heard at 1:45pm in conference room #016

**AUTISM SOCIETY OF HAWAI'I  
P.O. BOX 2995  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96802  
808 228-0122**

March 24, 2008

Senator Russell S. Kokubun  
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce  
Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing  
Senator David Ige  
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce  
Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing  
and  
Senator David Ige  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Carol Fukunaga  
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Health  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: SCR 196

*REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF  
REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR the diagnosis and treatment of  
autism spectrum disorders,*

March 24, 2008, 1:45pm., Room 016

Dear Chairs Kokubun and Ige, Vice Chairs Ige and Fukunaga, and members of the committees:

My name is Naomi Grossman and I am the president of the Autism Society of Hawaii. The Autism Society of Hawai'i offers its strong support for SCR 196.

The Autism Society of Hawai'i is an affiliate chapter of the Autism Society of America. It members are composed of families who deal with living with the effects of autism spectrum disorders and the professionals and paraprofessionals who serve them. The Autism Society of Hawai'i will provide leadership in the field of autism spectrum disorders dedicated to supporting families who advocate on behalf of their children and are committed to reducing the consequences of autism through education, research, and advocacy.

First of all, thank you for considering this important need for the autism community. Autism growing at an epidemic pace and proportion and poses a health concern to the needs of the community. Research

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shows that early intervention and intensive services are key to positive outcomes for children and their families. Currently, there is a great need to provide options and alternatives for children and students to access important milestones and development in order to become caring, contributing and competent members of society.

States, such as South Carolina, Indiana and Arizona agree that an unfair and unreasonable burden is being imposed on families of children with autism and have passed legislation to meet these important needs. I hope that Hawaii joins and leads other states in the nation seeking to have this important legislation on autism passed in an expeditious manner.

The Autism Society of Hawai'i appreciates the opportunity to submit a letter of strong support for SCR 196 and in turn make insurance coverage for autism a reality. We look forward to hearing that this resolution is passed today. The children with autism in Hawaii deserve to access a quality of life and to negotiate their way throughout their community and community-at-large. Thank you for this opportunity to hear this bill.

Sincerely,  
*Naomi Grossman*/signature on file  
Naomi Grossman  
Autism Society of Hawai'i, president

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# L A T E

## testimony

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**From:** Helen Mc Cracken [helen.mccracken@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2008 12:48 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SCR196 Autism Bill

Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing Committee

We am writing in support of the above bill. I am a huge advocate for coverage of treatment as approved by a physician for our Autism population. We are the owners of the Hyperbaric Medicine Center in Honolulu and witness first hand the struggle that families have in paying for services and treatment Autism affects 1 in 150 children and with the amount of data and scientific studies there are treatments that have a profound effect in the potential recovery of these children. At the rate that this condition is being diagnosed our Legislature needs to be the heroes and join with all other advocates in doing the right thing. Autism is only steps away from affecting all our families someday. Our testimony is in support of this bill.

With kind regards

Alfred and Helen McCracken  
Hyperbaric Medicine Center

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