



GREGORY HOUSE PROGRAMS

Hawaii's Statewide HIV/AIDS Housing and Support Services Provider

Bill: **HB 1114, Relating to Infectious Disease Testing**

Hearing: **House Committee on Health.**
Date: **Friday, February 13, 2009. 8:30 am**
Room: **Conference Room 329**

LATE

Chair person: **Rep. Ryan Yamane**

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Dear Chair Ryan Yamane and Committee Members:

My name is Jon Berliner, Executive Director of Gregory House Programs, **Hawaii's statewide HIV/AIDS housing organization.** On behalf of Gregory House Programs, I wish to express strong support of HB 1114.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of HB 1114. This bill will support the reduction in barriers to HIV counseling and testing and is in line with recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Gregory House Programs strongly supports passage of this bill. The following documents the benefits of this bill:

- reduce barriers to HIV counseling and testing by make it more efficient for healthcare providers
- allow Hawaii to follow the recommendations of CDD and major national organizations in support of increased testing in health care settings
- help reduce the estimated 25% of Americans who are HIV positive but do not know their HIV status because they have not been tested
- help many individuals in Hawaii to learn their HIV status and seek care and treatment
- help reduce transmission of HIV in Hawaii and reduce the long term costs to those infected and to our state
- help make HIV testing by healthcare providers more routine and reduce the stigma based on offering testing by perceived risk
- make it easier for healthcare providers to offer HIV testing to pregnant women and other patients
- reduce the missed opportunities for individuals to learn their HIV status when they are in contact with healthcare providers
- allow individuals to learn their HIV status earlier and receive early care services which will allow them to stay healthier, maintain employment and reduce the high costs of emergency room and hospital care
- allow individuals to learn their HIV status earlier and receive early prevention services which reduce HIV transmission to others
- ensure that all patients testing HIV positive will receive their results and be offered appropriate counseling

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1114.

Sincerely and with aloha,

Jonathon Berliner
Executive Director
Gregory House Programs

Executive Director
Jonathon Berliner
jonbf@gregoryhouse.org

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"Housing is Healthcare"

LATE



PLEASE DELIVER TO: CR 329
Friday, February 13, 2009, 8:30 am

To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Gary A. Okamoto, MD, President
Philip Hellreich, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
April Donahue, Executive Director
Richard C. Botti, Government Affairs
Lauren Zirbel, Government Affairs

Re: HB 1114 RELATING TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE TESTING

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Chairs & Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association supports this measure.

For the sake of patients and to protect the public and health care workers, physicians should be able test for HIV the way they do for all other infectious diseases, such as syphilis, hepatitis, and tuberculosis.

This measure will increase early detection of HIV and help ensure the safety of all our citizens from this infectious disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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