

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2251

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2010

RE: S.B. No. 2494  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2010  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 2494  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require health insurers and  
like entities to offer an insured prescription drug coverage that  
provides identical benefits to the insured's previous policy,  
regardless of whether the previous policy was provided by the same  
insurer.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from National Cornerstone Healthcare Services Inc., the American  
Cancer Society, the Neuropathy Action Foundation, the American  
Academy of Pediatrics, the Hawaii Coalition for Health, the Hawaii  
Congress of Physicians and other Healthcare Providers, the  
Guillian-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating  
Polyneuropathy Foundation International, the Alzheimer's  
Association, Aloha Chapter, and one individual. Your Committee  
received testimony in opposition to this measure from the  
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Kaiser Permanente  
Hawaii, the 'Ohana Health Plan, and the Hawaii Association of  
Health Plans. Testimony supporting the intent of this measure  
with amendments was received from the Hawaii Medical Association.  
The American Council of Life Insurers and one individual submitted  
testimony commenting on this measure. Written testimony presented  
to the Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

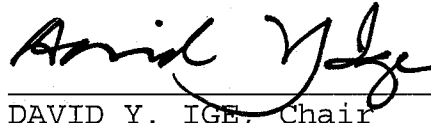


Your Committee finds that an individual should not lose access to an effective drug or drug regimen or have to suffer adverse side effects of a substitute because the individual is forced to switch drugs or brands upon changing insurance providers.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050 to encourage further discussion of this issue.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2494, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2494, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes  
 Committee on Health  
 HTH**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 2494</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HTH, CPN</b>	Date: <b>2/18/10</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	✓			
GREEN, M.D., Josh (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes