

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2206

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2010

RE: S.B. No. 2844

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. 2844  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ANATOMICAL TRANSPLANTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit health insurers  
from denying coverage for an organ or tissue transplant:

- (1) If the denial is due to the insured's human  
immunodeficiency virus (HIV) status; and
- (2) If the insured's health insurance policy includes  
coverage for such services.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from Kaiser Permanente and the American Civil Liberties Union of  
Hawai'i. Comments were received from the Department of Commerce  
and Consumer Affairs and the Hawaii Association of Health Plans.  
Testimony in opposition was received from the Hawaii Medical  
Service Association.

Written testimony presented to the Committee may be reviewed  
on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that organ transplants are among the  
most expensive of medical procedures. In 2007, total bills for a  
liver transplant during the first year averaged \$520,000, and  
\$660,000 for a heart transplant, according to a Seattle-based  
actuarial consulting firm.

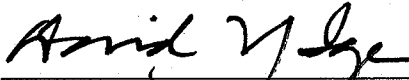
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Your Committee also finds that much progress has been made in recent years in the fight against HIV/AIDS, improving not only the quality of life for people infected with the virus, but affording many of them a normal life expectancy. Kidney disease and liver disease now pose two of the greatest threats to HIV-infected individuals, and until recently, the chances of these patients receiving new organs were slim. Thanks to groundbreaking research, HIV infection is no longer an impenetrable barrier to a successful transplant. Given these developments, your Committee finds that this measure will save lives and further prevent discrimination against those living with HIV.

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. 2844 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

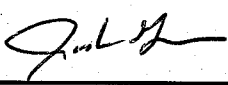
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health,

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



The Senate  
 Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health**  
**HTH**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 2844</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HTH, CPN</b>	Date: <b>2/8/10</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input 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: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>				
<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