

LATE
TESTIMONY

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 2:45 p.m. Conference
Room 229

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Senate COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Re: Support for SB 592 Relating to Medical Torts

Dear Senators Green and Nishihara & Committee Members:

I support the passage of medical tort reform. We have a difficult time attracting young physicians due to our malpractice risks here. UH med school grads often must go to work on the mainland after training even though they would prefer to stay here and practice. They can not afford to stay here and pay off their med school debt and pay ever increasing malpractice insurance bills to boot.

Physicians avoid the specialties that are higher risk for malpractice such as ob/gyn. To decrease the cost of medicine, there needs to be controls on the defensive medicine costs.

Access to medical care is a real issue here in Hawaii.

Please support SB 592 which would give the medical claims conciliatory panel more weight and avoid claims with no merit from proceeding to trial.

Sincerely,

Thea Palley