

LATE

STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

FEBRUARY 10, 2011, 8:30 am
STATE CAPITOL, CONF. RM. 229

Testimony in support of
SB 948, Relating to Health Coverage for Brain Injuries

TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lyna Burian, and I am offering written testimony in support of SB 948, which requires insurers, hospital and medical service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for survivors of brain injuries, including cognitive and neurocognitive therapy, neurobehavioral and neuropsychological testing or treatment, and necessary post-acute transition services or community re-integration activities.


My son sustained a brain injury eighteen years ago, and since then I have personally seen the lack of affordable post-acute services and community re-integration activities for this underserved group of people in Hawaii. Health insurance usually takes care of acute and critical care, but after that, one is left to fend for himself or herself.

Brain injury changes not only the life of the individual completely, but the lives of his/her family members as well. Depending on what part of the brain gets injured, the individual may suffer physical, cognitive or behavioral problems, and what is so sad about it is that very few affordable rehabilitative services are available in Hawaii for the survivors after the initial acute care phase.

It has been proven that consistent cognitive rehabilitation improves the brain injury survivor's cognition and capabilities. Dr. Peter Rossi, former Director of Neurology at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, presented information at one of the hearings for HB 1487 (the bill number for the same purpose that was introduced in 2005) regarding research studies already done on the Mainland that proves the effectiveness of some types of cognitive therapy. Right now, this type of therapy is not covered by health insurers in Hawaii, and most survivors cannot afford the cost. SB 948 will change that.

I urge you to pass SB 948. I truly believe that it will help improve the quality of life of people with brain injuries. Thank you for this opportunity to give my testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lyna O. Burian, Parent
1515 Nuuanu Avenue, #40
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

LATE



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ
LT. GOVERNOR

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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
AND HEALTH

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Thursday, February 10, 2011
8:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 948 – RELATING TO HEALTH COVERAGE
FOR BRAIN INJURIES.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSAYLN H. BAKER AND JOSH GREEN, M.D., CHAIRS,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner, testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department takes no position on this bill which creates a mandated benefit for specified types of treatment of brain injuries. Mandated benefits help some people, but impose costs on other people. We believe this trade off is best left to the wisdom of the Legislature, following the review by the Legislative Auditor required under HRS section 23-51.

We thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.

10 February 2011

TO: Committee chairs, Vice Chairs and
members of the committees:

From: Gerald + Eileen Soreda
94-416 Apowale St
Waipahu, HI 96797

Our son, Michael Soreda, had a seizure while vacationing in Las Vegas, 19 July 2006, hit his head and damaged his brain.

We are requesting you to support SB948, relating to health coverage for brain injuries. We belong to the brain-injured support group and there are so many who really need help.

Sincerely,
Gerald + Eileen Soreda
Phone: 671-3795