



National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society  
Hawaii Division

# LATE TESTIMONY

## COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Chair  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Hearing: February 13, 2012, 2:15 PM, Conference Room 325

Person Testifying: Lisa A. Dunn

### RE: **SUPPORT OF HB 1741 HD 1 RELATING TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Hawaii Office supports HB 1741 HD 1 Relating to Prescription Drug which would require the insurance commissioner to develop a uniform prescription drug preauthorization form to be used by prescribers and health care insurance providers.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic and often disabling disease of the central nervous system that typically is diagnosed in young adulthood. Since MS has no cure, management and ongoing treatment of the disease is essential in order to maintain optimal functioning and quality of life. Therefore, people living with multiple sclerosis know how important prescription medications are in maintaining their health. The timely access to prescription drugs is the ultimate lifeline for these individuals. Currently, prior authorization for prescription drugs can delay or even deny access to those medications that are so vital to these individuals.

The current prior authorization process is complex, lacks transparency, and the criteria and processes vary significantly among health plans. Health plans have differing preauthorization and appeal processes, benefit advisory, and admission notification requirements. And, although these varying requirements create a logistical complexity for providers who have to complete the forms and communicate with the health plans, in the end it is the patient who has to bear the consequences if the authorization is delayed or denied. HB 1741HD 1 is an important health care bill for people living with multiple sclerosis who depend on prescription drugs for their lives and potential livelihood.

HB 1741 HD 1 is important for all Hawaii patients. It would require a standardized Preauthorization Form that would be electronically available and transmittable. Standardization and electronic authorization should help to streamline the process and reduce costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Dunn, MSW  
Community Development Coordinator