



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012**

**Friday, February 3, 2012
9:00 a.m.**

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2105 – RELATING TO HEALTH

**TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:**

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner ("Commissioner"), testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department takes no position on this bill.

This bill creates a mandated benefit for fertility preservation procedure coverage for people with cancer. This is a medical matter that is outside of our expertise.

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



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Barbara L. Collura

February 2, 2012

House Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street , Conference Room 329
Honolulu, HI

RE: HB 2105

Sent via Email

Dear Committee Members:

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association is a non-profit organization improving the lives of the 7.3 million Americans who are living with infertility. We applaud the Hawaii legislature for recognizing the needs of women and men diagnosed with cancer to preserve their fertility. We support HB 2105 and urge the Committee to pass this bill.

For women and men receiving the devastating diagnosis of cancer, they should not have the extra burden of deciding whether they can afford the medical procedures to preserve their fertility for their future attempts at parenthood. Insurance should cover the fertility preservation procedures, as it is a by-product of their cancer treatment. Thank you for allowing Hawaii residents to still be parents despite a cancer diagnosis.

Sincerely,

Barbara Collura
Executive Director

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:24 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: davidhood19@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2105 on 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2105

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Hood
Organization: Individual
E-mail: davidhood19@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:
I support this bill as written.

As cancer survival has increased, difficulties with reproduction from the cancer itself or its treatment have become problematic. Cancer patients are often forced to deal with a new diagnosis of cancer and the possibility of infertility at the same time, greatly increasing their psychological burden. Knowing that fertility preservation treatments are available, can be reassuring, but realizing they are unattainable for financial reasons can add to the devastation already felt by patients.

Fertility preservation treatment in 2012 is highly successful. Both semen cryopreservation and embryo cryopreservation in experienced hands result in an excellent chance of life childbirth(s) in the future. Oocyte cryopreservation outcome rates are also approaching those of embryo cryopreservation in many centers and are another option available to patients who have a cancer diagnosis. Unfortunately, at this time, any fertility preservation treatment in Hawaii can be beyond the financial means of many cancer patients who are also facing bills of cancer treatment. These patients are forced to make an immediate decision regarding their fertility. They cannot save their money for a year and then choose to have the appropriate treatment.

In Hawaii, we are fortunate to have mandated coverage for in-vitro fertilization (IVF). However, the criteria to qualify for IVF are very restrictive and most cancer patients would not meet these criteria. Many of the cancer patients have not started trying to conceive, much less tried the 5 years mandated by the current law (if no other qualifying diagnosis is found.) Thus, the cancer patient, who is already suffering, cannot receive the same fertility options through her insurance that is afforded to her cancer free counterpart who has endometriosis, or tubal disease.

In summary, we strongly support HB 2105. We feel this bill will fill a needed gap in health care for a group of people who are suffering and should not have to choose between treating their cancer and having children in the future.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:08 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: NUTTYNURSE808@GMAIL.COM
Subject: Testimony for HB2105 on 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2105

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: LEILANI CANTOR NUTT
Organization: Individual
E-mail: NUTTYNURSE808@GMAIL.COM
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request that House Bill (HB) 2105 be heard by the House Committee on Health.

My husband was diagnosed on his 37th birthday with a rare form of kidney cancer in 2007. Before any chemotherapy was done, his doctor recommended my husband to preserve his sperm for the future. Being that we were both young, I was 36 years old at the time, this was definitely something we looked into. Unfortunately, our insurance did not cover any of the costs so we paid everything out of pocket. Of course, this did not stop us from proceeding on fertility preservation since having children in the future was very important to the both of us. With HB 2105, it'll give hope and financial assistance to those diagnosed with cancer to be able to have the option of building a family in the future.

My husband lost his battle with cancer January 6, 2011. Before his passing he had ask me to promise him that I would attempt in-vitro fertilization in hopes of a successful result. Due to high cost for the procedure itself, my first and only attempt was done April 2011. As a miracle would happen, I am happy to say that it was successful and I welcomed my daughter, Payton Anela, on New Years Day.

Unfortunately, I am unable to provide my testimony in person but please view link below as a part of my testimony as well. My story with Payton was followed by KHON Morning News Anchor, Jai Cunningham and he shared our story on January 5th, a few days after Payton was born.

<http://www.khon2.com/s/M-nnYndJF0msuOwqt47vsg.csp#x#.TwZ0kwtpi94.mailto>

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or contact me at (808) 382-2606.

Sincerely,
Leilani Cantor Nutt