



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I

February 3, 2012

**LATE**

To: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Health

From: Jeanne Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: HB 2232 Relating to Health  
Hearing: Friday, February 3, 2012, 9:00 a.m., Room 329

Position: Support

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of HB 2232 Relating to Health. This measure would prohibit a physician, osteopath, surgeon, or medical student from performing a pelvic exam on an anesthetized or unconscious female patient unless specific informed consent was obtained.

Medical students and physicians may be liable for performing pelvic exams on unconscious women without consent. Many leading medical schools have abandoned this practice and recognized the moral and ethical need for consent.

American Association of Medical Colleges, which represents 125 accredited U.S. medical schools and over 400 teaching hospitals labeled performance of pelvic exams on women under anesthesia as unethical and unacceptable. Teaching institutions are more likely to use uninsured "public patients" over insured "private patients." Some physicians use this economic status as justification for not obtaining consent.

California has recognized unauthorized examinations as a misdemeanor and grounds for loss of a physician's license.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawai'i's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Women's Caucus supports this measure. We respectfully ask the committee to pass it out.

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:58 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2232 on 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

Testimony for HLT 2/3/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2232

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com](mailto:Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

**Comments:**

Strongly agree, there are plenty of training hours with a subject being awake. It just screams lawsuit!