

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

LATE

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SB 655 SD1, Relating to Health

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.

Director of Health

February 20, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** The Department supports this bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Successful implementation of the bill should reduce STD prevalence and allow
3 earlier treatment of infection resulting in lower health care costs.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to amend Chapter 453 HRS to authorize Hawaii
5 health care professionals to prescribe or dispense Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) for sexually
6 transmitted infections (STIs) to their patient for treatment of the patient's sexual partner when the
7 partner is otherwise unlikely to obtain medical evaluation or treatment on their own.

8 The Department supports this bill as Hawaii has a high rate of chlamydia infection (over 7,000
9 diagnosed cases in 2011) and significant numbers of gonorrhea cases (over 700 in 2011). EPT is highly
10 recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

11 Currently, at least 28 states feature one or more laws that permit or may facilitate health care
12 practitioners to practice EPT. Reducing the prevalence of STIs through EPT can significantly reduce
13 health care costs by preventing infections and by treating infections at an earlier stage, particularly for
14 young women who can develop pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility, with the attendant
15 preventable suffering from these conditions.

1 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Monday January 28, 2013

1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 229

To: COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Sen. Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Steven Kemble, MD, President
Dr. Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Joseph Zobian, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: SB 655 Relating to Health (Expedited Partner Therapy)

Position: Strongly Support with American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section Amendments

Dear Chair Green, Chair and Vice Chair Baker, Vice Chair Galuteria and the Senate Committee on Health and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection Members:

The Hawaii Medical Association is submitting testimony in strong support of SB 655.

Many patients with chlamydia have partners who refuse to seek treatment on their own, resulting in persistent chlamydia infection with its attendant medical complications. Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) has been recommended by the CDC since 2006, however many health professionals do not provide EPT to their patients with chlamydia due to legal concerns. This bill outlines a procedure to provide and encourage Expedited Partner Therapy in Hawaii.

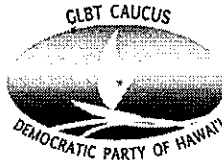
The HMA strongly support this bill. This bill will benefit our patients as well as public health by decreasing the burden of sexually transmitted infections in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

OFFICERS

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**GAY LESBIAN
BISEXUAL AND
TRANSGENDER
CAUCUS**



**DEMOCRATIC
PARTY OF HAWAII**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB655 SD1
Relating to Health (Expedited Partner Therapy)**

**February 20, 2013 - Wednesday
9:30 AM
Conference Room 229
State Capitol**

**To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

From: Jo-Ann M. Adams, Legislative Liaison

The Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Caucus supports SB655 SD1, which provides treatment for the partner(s) of patients with sexually transmitted infections. It is intuitively obvious that to adequately treat patients with sexually transmitted diseases, their sexual partner(s) should also be treated. Although partner treatment is recommended to patients, partners often do not seek treatment, leading to re-infection and possible complications.

This bill provides a mechanism to expedite partner treatment, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since 2006. The goals of Expedited Partner Therapy are to decrease persistent or recurrent infection, reduce the medical complications of certain sexually transmitted diseases, and decrease the persistence of infection in the population by dispensing or prescribing antibiotics to the partner(s) of the patient without examining the partner(s).

The State of Hawaii has high reported rates of chlamydia. The most recent CDC data ranks Hawaii #22 for reported chlamydia infection rates with the disease peaking in the age group 15-24 years.

Expedited Partner Therapy can decrease costs borne by the taxpayers by reducing the spread of infection and preventing the medical complications.

In 2011, there were 27 states in which Expedited Partner Therapy was permissible by law. The statutes in the majority of these states include some form of liability protection. In 2001, California was the first state to authorize Expedited Partner Therapy, and after more than ten years of use, no adverse events have been reported.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.