



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 1897, H.D. 1, RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERAGE OF HEALTH SCREENINGS.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

**DATE:** Thursday, March 17, 2016

**TIME:** 9:45 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 229

**TESTIFIER(S):** Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or  
Daniel K. Jacob, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General appreciates the intent of this bill, but submits comments expressing legal concerns.

The purpose of this measure is to ensure insurance coverage for annual screenings for sexually transmitted diseases ("STD"), including screenings for human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

Pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), before any legislative matter that mandates health insurance coverage for specific health services, specific diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part of an insurance policy can be considered, concurrent resolutions are required to be adopted that request the Auditor to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage. This bill proposes to mandate insurance coverage for annual screenings for STDs. Our understanding is that there has been no concurrent resolution adopted passed regarding coverage for annual screenings for STDs as required by section 23-51, HRS. Accordingly, we recommend that the bill be held until such time as the concurrent resolutions has been adopted and the Auditor's report has been completed and submitted to the Legislature as required by section 23-51, HRS.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to be heard.

LATE



March 15, 2016

TESTIMONY: Written only

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health

From: **Hawaii Public Health Association**

Subject: **SUPPORT – HB1897 HD1 RELATING TO INSURANCE  
COVERAGE OF HEALTH SCREENINGS**

Hearing: March 17, 2016 at 9:45am at State Capitol Room 229

The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) is an association of over 600 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

**HPHA supports the passage of HB1897 HD1**, which ensures insurance coverage for sexually transmitted disease (STD) screenings, including screenings for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The rates of youth currently being tested for STDs are undesirably low even though STD testing is strongly suggested nationwide. Health effects caused by untreated STDs such as HIV/AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia can lead to serious health conditions and complications, or even death. If STDs are left

unrecognized and untreated, they could result in pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, cervical cancer, and infertility in women.

According to the Hawai'i 2015 State Profile published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 87 adults and adolescents were diagnosed with HIV in Hawaii in 2013. The rate of primary and secondary (infectious) stages of syphilis was 2.5 per 100,000 in 2009 and 3.3 per 100,000 in 2013. Hawai'i was ranked 39th among 50 states in gonorrheal infections, 51.6 per 100,000 persons. The State is ranked 15th among 50 states in chlamydia diagnoses, infecting 476.9 per 100,000 persons. Reported rates of chlamydia among women were 2.4 times greater than those among men.

HPHA supports the encouragement of regular STD testing for anyone that is sexually active in the state of Hawaii. Covering such testing would increase diagnosis and treatment and potentially lead to a higher rate of self-initiated testing when needed. Not only will access to insurance-covered STD testing increase treatment, it will prevent the spread of sexually transmitted disease.

Thank you for considering our testimony concerning **HB1897 HD1**, which would provide insurance-covered sexually transmitted disease testing.

Respectfully submitted,

Hoce Kalkas, MPH  
HPHA Legislative and Government Relations Committee Chair

**baker2 - Lia/Eve**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2016 2:29 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1897 on Mar 17, 2016 09:45AM

**HB1897**

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 17, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Catherine Betts	Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women strongly supports HB 1897, which would allow individuals to have STI screenings covered by their respective health insurance carriers.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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