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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

Tuesday, February 23, 2016
9:50 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2323, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO INSURANCE
COVERAGE OF HEALTH SCREENINGS.**

TO THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner, testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”).

The purpose of this bill is to ensure insurance coverage for annual screenings for sexually transmitted disease screenings, including screenings for human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. The Department submits the following comments.

Sections 2 to 4 of this bill would require all health policies, plans, contracts, or agreements (except limited benefit and specified diseases policies as described in section 431:10A-102.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes) to cover sexually transmitted disease screenings annually. It would also require reimbursement to the health care provider of all costs associated with such coverage.

Pursuant to the federal Patient and Affordable Care Act (2010) (“ACA”), the federal Department of Human Services adopted guidelines for ACA compliant plans regarding coverage for women’s preventative services, including annual well-woman

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visits and HIV/AIDS screening without cost sharing. ACA compliant plans currently cover these screenings for women.

To the extent that the proposed legislation mandates new coverage benefits for non-ACA compliant plans, the Department takes no position. The Department defers to the Legislature to determine the appropriate health coverage mandates. Pursuant to Section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, any proposed mandatory health insurance coverage may also require the passage of a concurrent resolution requesting the State Auditor to prepare and submit a report assessing the social and financial impacts of the proposed mandate.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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TESTIMONY BY DEREK MIZUNO
ADMINISTRATOR, HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2323 SD1

February 23, 2016, 9:50 a.m.

RELATING TO INSURANCE COVERGE OF HEALTH SCREENINGS

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) Board of Trustees has not had an opportunity to take a position on this bill. However, the Committee should be aware that the current EUTF medical plans provide coverage at no cost for sexually transmitted disease testing in accordance with United States Preventative Services Task Force Grades A and B guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 9:50 a.m.
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.B. 2323, S.D.1,
Relating to Insurance Coverage of Health Screenings

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in support of S.B. 2323, SD1., which requires insurance coverage for sexually transmitted disease testing in accordance with national professional guidelines, such as those of the United States Preventive Services Task Force and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PPVNH is dedicated to advocating for policies that promote sexual and reproductive health care and so we support S.B. 2323 because it will increase the affordability and availability of regular STI testing for those who seek to proactively take care of their health. Patients should be able to obtain insurance coverage for testing if it is determined to be advisable based on a consultation with their doctors and in accordance with national guidelines, as opposed to a determination made by their insurance company.

Further, the economic and other costs associated with STI testing are minimal compared to the cost of treating STIs. Promoting STI testing will ensure that those who with STIs have access to the treatment and care that they need and will result in a decrease in the rates of infection and costs associated with STIs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2323, SD1.

Sincerely,
Laurie Field
Hawaii Legislative Director and Public Affairs Manager



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB 2323, SD1 – Relating to Insurance Coverage of Health Screenings

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2323, SD1, which would require health plan coverage of screenings for sexually transmitted diseases. HMSA supports this Bill.

Research has shown that preventive health services can save lives and improve health by identifying illnesses earlier, managing them more effectively, and treating them before they develop into more complicated, debilitating conditions, and that some services are also cost-effective. In recognition of this, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandates coverage for a range of preventive services without cost-sharing. The required preventive services come from recommendations made by four expert medical and scientific bodies – the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Bright Futures Project, and HRSA and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee on women's clinical preventive services.

In compliance with the ACA, all of HMSA's non-grandfathered plans currently provide coverage for all USPSTF grade a and b recommendations which include: chlamydia screening; gonorrhea screening; HIV screening, and syphilis screening. In addition offer coverage for sexually transmitted infections counseling.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of HB 2323, SD1.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President, Government Relations.