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GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
House Committee on Health  
Thursday, January 30, 2020  
9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 2676, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

My name is Colin Hayashida, and I am the Insurance Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for a comprehensive category of reproductive health services, drugs, devices, products, and procedures; and (2) prohibit discrimination in the provision of reproductive health care services.

This bill sets forth coverage for preventive care services that may be viewed as new mandates:

- Section 2, on page 2, line 19 to page 6, line 6 applies to individual accident and health or sickness policies;

- Section 3 on page 10, line 6 to page 13, line 13 applies to group accident and health or sickness policies;
- Section 4 on page 17, line 12 to page 20, line 19 applies to individual or group hospital or medical service plan contracts; and
- Section 9 on page 35, line 19 applies to policies, contracts, plans, or agreements issued by health maintenance organizations.

The addition of new mandated coverage may trigger section 1311(d)(3) of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which requires states to make payments to defray the costs of any benefits, in addition to the essential health benefits of the State's qualified health plan under the PPACA. 45 Code of Federal Regulations section 155.170(a)(2) also provides that "[a] benefit **required by State action** taking place on or after January 1, 2012, other than for purposes of compliance with Federal requirements, is considered in addition to the essential health benefits" (emphasis added).

Furthermore, any proposed mandate providing coverage for care requires 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, pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 23-51.

Section 4 of the bill on page 20, lines 14 to 19 presents enforcement difficulties, as 42 United States Code section 300gg-13 does not provide a detailed list of services and instead references guidelines and recommendations issued by agencies.

Section 6 of the bill on page 29, lines 12 to 16 amends the definition of "contraceptive supplies" by adding the phrase, "regardless of whether they are to be used by the insured or the partner of the insured, and regardless of whether they are to be used for contraception or exclusively for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections." This amendment seemingly mandates coverage for drugs, devices, or products that are not intended for use by the insured, as well as drugs, devices, or products that are intended only for infection prevention, and not for contraception.

Lastly, the effective date of the bill conflicts with the applicability of certain provisions to plans issued on or after a date certain. While this bill has an effective date

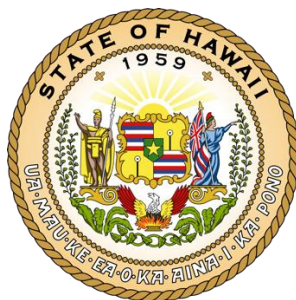
Testimony of DCCA

H.B. 2676

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of March 15, 2021, and applies to all plans issued or renewed on or after March 15, 2021, section 6 on page 25, line 19 and section 8 on page 31, line 2 amend HRS sections 431:10A-116.6 and 432:1-604.5, respectively, to apply to contracts issued on or after January 1, 2020.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke  
**Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

Testimony on behalf of the  
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women  
**Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director**

Prepared for the House Committee on Health

In Support of HB2676

Thursday, January 20, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports HB2676, which would require health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for a comprehensive category of reproductive health services, drugs, devices, products, and procedures. The bill, if passed, would also prohibit discrimination in the provision of reproductive health care services.

The future of women’s health has never been so uncertain. This measure is a necessary step to ensure that women and LGBTQ individuals in Hawai‘i do not lose access to no-copay preventive services such as birth control, breastfeeding support and supplies, domestic and interpersonal violence screenings, gestational diabetes screening, well-woman exams, and life-saving cancer screenings.

HB2676 would also expand these coverage requirements by requiring coverage of the full range of sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion and treatment to avoid HIV. Further, the measure would ensure that all people in Hawai‘i can live more self-determined lives by guaranteeing access to these important services, regardless of gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Accordingly, the Commission requests that the Committee pass Hb2676

Sincerely,  
Khara Jabola-Carolus





January 29, 2020

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Health

Re: HB 2676 – Relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 2676 which requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for a comprehensive category of reproductive health services, drugs, devices, products, and procedures. Prohibits discrimination in the provision of reproductive health care services. Effective 3/15/2021.

HMSA appreciates the intent of this measure, to preserve certain aspects of the Affordable Care Act for the residents of Hawaii, despite the uncertainties surrounding the current Presidential administration's efforts to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act. However, this measure appears to add coverage beyond the Affordable Care Act, and will result in increased costs to the healthcare system. The requirement of "no-copay's" on all services in this bill goes against cost sharing that is routinely applied to other medical conditions.

We ask that should this bill move forward it should be subject to an impact assessment report by the Auditor pursuant to Sections 23-51 and 23-52 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for allowing us to provide these comments on HB 2676.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong  
Vice President, Government Relations

Testimony of  
John M. Kirimitsu  
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:  
House Committee on Health  
The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

January 30, 2020  
9:00 am  
Conference Room 329

### **HB 2676 Relating to Health Care**

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure mandating coverage for a comprehensive category of reproductive health services, drugs, devices, products, and procedures.

#### **Kaiser Permanente Hawaii would like to offer comments.**

Kaiser is concerned that this bill is attempting to mandate new coverage beyond the ACA by including non-preventative services such as abortion. The ACA Sect 1303 explicitly prohibits abortion from coverage as an “essential benefit” and confirms existing Federal and State prohibitions on the use of public funds for abortion services. Procedurally, abortion is a *diagnostic*, not a preventative, service since it is provided *after-the-fact*, i.e. after a birth has already taken place. Therefore, as a non-preventative service (and non-essential health benefit under the ACA), standard office visit/hospital inpatient cost shares for abortion services would apply.

Thank you for your consideration.



To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Health  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329  
Re: Testimony of Hawaii Women's Coalition in strong support of HB 2676,  
relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Women's Coalition writes in support of H.B. 2676, because all people in Hawaii should have access to a full range of preventative sexual and reproductive health services at no cost. While Hawaii has taken steps to codify in state law important protections currently required under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), many people still lack access to the critical care they need.

Thousands of people in Hawaii still lack access to the full range of reproductive health services. Without action, people in Hawaii will continue to be forced to delay care or forego care altogether, risking their health and economic security.

H.B. 2676 incorporates an expansion of private insurance coverage requirements. With federal attempts to undermine the Affordable Care Act, it is imperative Hawaii pursue legislation that strengthens and expands our state law by requiring insurers to cover a wide range of sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion and vasectomy, with no co-pays and on a non-discriminatory basis.

While state law requires insurance plans to pay for the full range of FDA-approved contraceptives without cost-sharing, thousands of people must pay out-of-pocket for other basic, preventive health services.

Hawaii needs RHEA: forcing people to pay out-of-pocket for sexual and reproductive health care negatively impacts health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as people with low incomes, people of color, immigrants, young people, and survivors of domestic violence.

Transgender and gender non-conforming people often face barriers when accessing services categorized as "women's" health care, including gender-specific cancer screenings and the full range of reproductive health services. RHEA would help transgender and gender non-conforming people access these necessary and life-saving services.

Thank you for your support for this important measure, because all people deserve equal access to health care and the freedom to decide whether or not to become a parent or grow their family.

Sincerely,  
Hawaii Women's Coalition





**ACOG**  
The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

*American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
District VIII, Hawai'i (Guam & American Samoa) Section*

TO: House Committee on Health  
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, January 30, 2020 9:00 AM

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

FROM: Hawai'i Section, ACOG  
Chrystie Fujimoto, MD, FACOG, Chair  
Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG, Vice Chair  
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations  
Jennifer Chin, MD, Junior Fellow Legislative Chair

**Re: HB 2676 Relating to Health Care**

**Position: STRONG SUPPORT**

As a section of the nation's leading group of physicians dedicated to improving health care for women, the Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) represents more than 200 obstetrician-gynecologists in our state. HI ACOG **strongly supports HB 2676** as it aims to protect access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i has a legacy of progressive action and legislation regarding reproductive rights, family planning, and access to women's health care services. As several states around the country have passed legislation that restricts comprehensive women's health care, it is even more important that leaders of women's health, such as Hawai'i, protect the right to full spectrum women's health care for the benefit of the women and families of Hawai'i.

As women's health care providers, we see on a daily basis how women in our state depend on access to a wide spectrum of reproductive health care services, including screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, cervical cancer screening and treatment, contraceptive counseling and medications, abortion and miscarriage management, genetic counseling and testing, substance use and mental health disorders, and comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care. Every day we see patients in clinic and in the hospital who seek care because of one of these issues. Luckily most of the women we see are able to receive these services without having to delay care or worry about payment. Unfortunately, we have also seen the devastating consequences of delayed care due to lack of insurance coverage. We have cared for many patients who did not receive normal pap smears and thus presented with advanced stage cervical cancer. We have taken care of pregnant patients with serious substance use and mental health disorders who were unable to receive treatment before, during, or after their pregnancy. It is critical that the women of Hawai'i have timely, affordable access to the full spectrum of women's healthcare. Not only does this keep the women and families of Hawai'i healthy, but it also makes economic sense. Research has shown that for every dollar spent on reproductive health and family planning, the government saves seven dollars. This does not taken into account the burden unintended pregnancies and chronic medical conditions place on the families of Hawai'i, and thus the cost savings is likely even higher.

HB 2676 guarantees that all people of Hawai'i are able to access the full spectrum of healthcare without any discrimination, regardless of their race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or ability. Additionally, it ensures that women have full access to contraception including medication prescribed by physicians, physician

assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and pharmacists. This will decrease barriers to effective birth control and ensure that women are able to benefit from family planning services without delay. HI ACOG is proud to represent a state that has a strong tradition of prioritizing women's health. Let us continue to ensure that all women in Hawai'i have unrestricted, full spectrum access to the healthcare they need and deserve. In conclusion, we **strongly support HB 2676** and urge you to do the same.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health  
Thursday, January 30, 2020; 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2676, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA offers **COMMENTS** on House Bill No. 2676, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

SECTION 11 would establish a new section to the Department of Human Services' (DHS) statutes (Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)) that would prohibit the exclusion from participation in, denial of benefits of, or otherwise subject an individual on the basis of a disability the services, drugs, devices, products, or procedures covered by the Insurance Code for reproductive health care. Persons violating this statute would be considered in violation of Chapter 481, HRS, (Unfair Practices Act), as well as possibly be subjected to a cause of action under State or federal law.

As a recipient of federal funding, FQHCs are prohibited from providing abortion services to patients. FQHCs, are also contracted with DHS for reimbursement under the Hawaii Medicaid Program and as such must follow the statutes, rules, and policies of DHS.

Presently, the following are not clear to us:

- (1) If a physician at an FQHC refuses to perform an abortion at an FQHC facility in accordance with federal mandate, would the physician be in violation of SECTION 11?
- (2) If a physician at an FQHC refers a patient to another health care professional to perform an abortion, would that be considered a denial of service in violation of SECTION 11?

**Testimony on House Bill No. 2676**

**Thursday, January 30, 2020; 9:00 a.m.**

**Page 2**

- (3) If yes is answered for either question (1) or (2), would the Federal Tort Claims Act, which provides immunity for physicians and personnel conducting services at an FQHC apply to a cause of action that originates in State court pursuant to SECTION 11?

While we agree that the underlying premise that mandatory reproduction health coverage will improve the health care outcomes of our citizenry, we also believe that possible conflicts in federal and State policy can have catastrophic consequences for health care professionals who must follow the mandates from both.

We note that this bill is substantially similar to a measure heard last year -- Senate Bill No. 1043. We concur with the Senate Committee on Judiciary's finding in Senate Standing Committee Report No. 798, I to wit:

*" . . . Your Committee is concerned, however, that the reference to chapter 481, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for penalty and remedy purposes, as specified for each proposed revision of chapter 431, parts I and II; chapter 432; chapter 432D; and **chapter 346**, Hawaii Revised Statutes, should be more closely examined by stakeholders and future committees during the legislative process, and revised if appropriate. . . ." [Emphasis added.]*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

To: Hawaii State House of Representatives Committee on Health  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, Jan. 20, 2020, 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii in strong support of HB 2676, relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in strong support of HB 2676, which seeks to ensure equal access to critical sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion, for all people in Hawaii.

All people in Hawaii – regardless of income, gender identity, or type of insurance – should have access to the full range of no-copay preventive reproductive health services. To safeguard its communities, Hawaii should pass HB 2676 to codify the Affordable Care Act’s coverage requirements into state law and expand protected services to include abortion and vasectomy. The Hawaii Legislature should also pass HB 2676 because it prohibits insurance companies from discriminating in insurance coverage, including coverage of reproductive health services, based on gender or gender identity.

**HB 2676 ensures insurance coverage of the full range of sexual and reproductive health care.** While state law requires insurance plans to pay the full range of FSA-approved contraceptives without cost-sharing, thousands of people must pay out-of-pocket for other basic, preventive health services. Without action, people in Hawaii will continue to delay care or forego care altogether due to these out-of-pocket costs, risking their health and economic security. HB 2676 would help fill these coverage gaps.

Congressional leaders and the current administration have made it clear that enacting additional restrictions on health care access and undermining consumer protections are their top priorities. They have targeted the rights of women and LGBTQ people with attacks on non-discrimination protections and access to abortion and birth control. Most recently, the federal administration finalized a rule designed to make it much more difficult for private health insurance plans to cover abortion care. Without HB 2676, insurers will most certainly consider discontinuing this important coverage.

Given these federal attacks on basic rights and health care, it is more important than ever that our state legislature act to ensure that nobody loses access to the health care and protections they depend on. HB 2676 will do just that. This legislation would codify the ACA’s preventive service coverage requirements in state law, ensuring that people in Hawaii don’t lose their access to no-copay preventive services such as birth control, well-woman exams, and life-saving cancer screenings. It would also strengthen and expand these coverage requirements by requiring coverage of the full range of sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion and vasectomy. And it would make sure that all people in Hawaii can access these important services, regardless of gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

**HB 2676 is a cost-effective solution.** Protecting and expanding access to sexual and reproductive health is not only the right thing to do: it is also cost-effective for consumers and health plans alike. The services included in this legislation are basic components of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and are all associated with significant potential cost savings. That’s because providing basic preventive care avoids the need for more expensive treatment and management down the road. Therefore, even if some services are determined to be new mandated benefits, in the long term covering these services would likely be either cost-neutral or even create cost

savings for health plans. Because of this cost-effectiveness, requiring coverage of these services would likely have a minimal impact on premiums, which in turn means that there would be minimal additional cost to the state to offset any potential premium increases.

**Hb 2676 is similar to coverage requirements in other states.** Many other states have already implemented requirements found in HB 2676 including the comprehensive sexual and reproductive health requirements. For example:

- In 2018, the Washington Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill 6219, also known as the Reproductive Parity Act.<sup>1</sup> This legislation required that state-regulated health plans that cover maternity care provide substantially equivalent coverage for abortion care. It also expanded contraceptive coverage requirements beyond those in the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), including gender-neutral coverage of sterilization services for all enrollees and coverage of over-the-counter contraception. None of the requirements in this legislation was determined to be a new mandate that would trigger section 1311(d)(3) of the PPACA.
- In 2017 the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3391, also known as the Reproductive Health Equity Act.<sup>2</sup> This bill required comprehensive, non-discriminatory coverage of sexual and reproductive health care services. This included coverage of abortion and a wide range of other sexual and reproductive health care services at no out-of-pocket cost to the patient.
- In 2019, the Illinois Legislature passed the Illinois Reproductive Health Act, which required public and private insurance plans that provide pregnancy benefits to also cover abortions services – any deductible, coinsurance, waiting period, or other cost-sharing limit that applies to abortion cannot be higher than what the policy requires for other pregnancy care.<sup>3</sup>

Several states have also put in place laws that codify existing requirements from the PPACA to ensure that those important protections stay in place at the state level, no matter what happens at the federal level. For example, in 2017, Washington State enacted legislation requiring state-regulated health plans to cover all preventive services required to be covered under federal law as of December 31, 2016, without cost sharing.<sup>4</sup> The requirements of this legislation are broader than Hawaii’s HB 2676, but the reproductive preventive health services are nearly identical to the coverage required in §431:10A-A(a)(1) of HB 2676. In the fiscal note for Washington’s legislation, the Washington Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) noted that “[t]his bill does not have a direct fiscal impact on the OIC because the bill maintains coverage of preventive services with zero cost-sharing as they currently exist in Federal law and are currently being enforced by the OIC.”<sup>5</sup> As OIC rightly stated, these are not new requirements: HB 2676 and similar legislation in other states simply require health plans to continue

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<sup>1</sup> Washington State Legislature, *Senate Bill 6219*, 2018. Accessed at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=6219&Initiative=false&Year=2017>

<sup>2</sup> Oregon State Legislature, *Senate Bill 3391*, 2017. Accessed at <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB3391>

<sup>3</sup> Illinois State Legislature, *House bill 2495*, 2019. Accessed at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2495&GAID=15&GA=101&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=118530&SessionID=108>

<sup>4</sup> Washington State Legislature, *Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1523*, 2018. Accessed at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1523&Year=2017&Initiative=false>

<sup>5</sup> Washington State Office of Financial Management, *Multi-Agency Fiscal Note Summary for ESHB 1523*, 2018. Accessed at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ofm/fnspublic/FNSPublicSearch/Search/1523/65>

covering the basic health care that the ACA already requires them to cover. These federal coverage requirements are already in place across the country and have already been well-defined.

Other states that have passed coverage requirements have found that continuing to require health plans to cover existing mandates in the ACA is simple and minimally burdensome. Other states have also determined that passing legislation that includes broader coverage requirements than those included in the PPACA does not necessarily create new mandates, because in some cases these coverage requirements simply clarify and codify the state's existing commitment to covering comprehensive, non-discriminatory sexual and reproductive health care. PPACA requirements also continue to expand and evolve, making the impact of HB 2676 on Hawaii minimal – for example, all plans that have an effective date of June 11, 2020 or later are now required to cover PrEP medication without cost sharing. In implementing HB 2676, Hawaii can look to the example of other states and learn from their experiences and successes.

**HB 2676 protects confidentiality.** The HIPAA Privacy Rule requires providers and insurers to protect patients' Personal Health Information (PHI). However, a provision allowing for some disclosures in connection with billing and payment can and does lead to the disclosure of patients' PHI, sometimes without their understanding or permission. Without strong protections to prevent such disclosure, teens and young adults insured on their parents' health plan may be deterred from seeking care, particularly sensitive services like reproductive health care and mental health services. Victims of domestic and sexual assault may also be prevented from safely accessing care such as contraception and STI testing without their abuser finding out. And if individuals with confidentiality concerns do seek care they may not be able to use their insurance, forcing them to pay out-of-pocket or turn to already-strained safety net programs.

A number of other states have also taken steps to improve health care access and protect confidentiality for individuals insured as dependents by requiring that health plans communicate directly with the individual receiving care. Planned Parenthood strongly supports putting in place similar confidentiality protections in Hawaii.

**Thousands of people in Hawaii still lack access to the full range of reproductive health services.** Access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, without discrimination, is critical for the health and economic security of people in Hawaii. This bill will give more people in Hawaii the ability to decide if and when they have children based on what's best for them and their family's circumstances. Hawaii must continue its leadership in promoting all peoples' ability to access the health care they need and deserve, no matter what happens at the federal level. Please give Hawaii families access to the health care they need to thrive by supporting HB 2676.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Field  
Hawaii State Director

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 2:02:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Committee Members,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in full support of the passage of House Bill 2676.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair  
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 7:27:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pride at Work - Hawaii	Pride @ Work - Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of Pride At Work which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i support HB 2676 because access to sexual and reproductive health care is vital to everyone who calls Hawai'i home.

We humbly ask for your support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 9:17:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Younghi Overly	aaup of hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:32:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Midwives Alliance of Hawaii	Midwives Alliance of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:43:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Bilyk	Breastfeeding Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

TO: House Committee on Health  
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, January 30, 2020 9:00 AM

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

FROM: Jennifer Chin, MD, Junior Fellow Legislative Chair

**Re: HB 2676 Relating to Health Care**  
**Position: STRONG SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Mizuno and Vice Chair Kobayashi,

As a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist, I know the importance of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and **strongly support HB 2676** as it aims to protect access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i has a legacy of progressive action and legislation regarding reproductive rights, family planning, and access to women's health care services. As several states around the country have passed legislation that restricts comprehensive women's health care, it is even more important that leaders of women's health, such as Hawai'i, protect the right to full spectrum women's health care for the benefit of the women and families of Hawai'i.

As women's health care providers, we see on a daily basis how women in our state depend on access to a wide spectrum of reproductive health care services, including screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, cervical cancer screening and treatment, contraceptive counseling and medications, abortion and miscarriage management, genetic counseling and testing, substance use and mental health disorders, and comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care. Every day we see patients in clinic and in the hospital who seek care because of one of these issues. Luckily most of the women we see are able to receive these services without having to delay care or worry about payment. Unfortunately, we have also seen the devastating consequences of delayed care due to lack of insurance coverage. We have cared for many patients who did not receive normal pap smears and thus presented with advanced stage cervical cancer. We have taken care of pregnant patients with serious substance use and mental health disorders who were unable to receive treatment before, during, or after their pregnancy. It is critical that the women of Hawai'i have timely, affordable access to the full spectrum of women's healthcare. Not only does this keep the women and families of Hawai'i healthy, but it also makes economic sense. Research has shown that for every dollar spent on reproductive health and family planning, the government saves seven dollars. This does not taken into account the burden unintended pregnancies and chronic medical conditions place on the families of Hawai'i, and thus the cost savings is likely even higher.

HB 2676 guarantees that all people of Hawai'i are able to access the full spectrum of healthcare without any discrimination, regardless of their race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or ability. Additionally, it ensures that women have full access to contraception including medication prescribed by physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and pharmacists. This will decrease barriers to effective birth control and ensure that women are able to benefit from family planning services without delay. Let us continue to ensure that all women in Hawai'i have unrestricted, full spectrum access to the healthcare they need and deserve. In conclusion, I **strongly support HB 2676** and urge you to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Chin  
Obstetrics and Gynecology Chief Resident  
ACOG Hawaii Section Junior Fellow Legislative Chair

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 1:52:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

All people in Hawaii – regardless of income, gender identity, or type of insurance – should have access to the full range of preventive sexual and reproductive health services at no cost. This year, we have an opportunity to do just that.

House Bill 2676 requires insurance coverage with no out-of-pocket cost for a broad range of preventive reproductive and sexual health care services, including contraception, vasectomy, abortion, STI and HIV screening, PrEP, breastfeeding support and supplies, domestic violence and breast and cervical cancer screenings, and more for all people in Hawaii.

Make sure Hawaii continues to lead the way in health care and ensure reproductive health equity for all people.

[www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 7:26:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 8:43:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Truong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB 2676 - Reproductive Health Equity for All (RHEA). It is vital to strengthen and expand state law by requiring insurers to cover a wide range of sexual and reproductive health care services with no co-pay, including abortion, the full range of contraceptive methods, and vasectomy. Services like this should be required by insurers so that patients have easy and full access in case we need it. Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Thank you so much.

Warm Regards,  
Amy Truong

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 9:00:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:56:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Y Tabata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Edward Thompson, III

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From: loconnell37@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lauren O'Connell <loconnell37@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 4:20 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care  
  
Categories: Red category

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

The state of Hawaii has a high rate of transmission of STIs, many of which are incurable and require treatment. This is happening across the country because of cuts in state and local funding for STI programs and a lack of access to necessary protection, such as condoms. STIs are preventable, but in Hawaii they are at some of the highest rates they have been in 30 years, particularly amongst youth and underrepresented groups such as racial and ethnic minority groups as well as LGBT people. Many people afflicted do not have insurance, transportation, or access to comfortable treatment. This is why it is important for everyone to have equal access to sexual health care, regardless of socio-economic background, which could help prevent the spread of STIs around the islands.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Lauren O'Connell  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Edward Thompson, III

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From: bertzz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Robert Wilcox  
<bertzz@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 3:43 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Robert Wilcox  
Lahaina, HI 96761

Edward Thompson, III

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From: rhiora@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marilyn Markley  
<rhiora@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 3:29 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Markley  
Pahoa, HI 96778

Edward Thompson, III

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From: vanessa88@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Vanessa Lawson <vanessa88@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 3:24 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Vanessa Lawson  
Hilo, HI 96720

Edward Thompson, III

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From: boyne@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jonathan Boyne  
<boyne@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:40 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Boyne  
Honolulu, HI 96822



Edward Thompson, III

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From: bcohen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Bruce Cohen  
<bcohen@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 5:10 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Cohen  
Pahoa, HI 96778

Edward Thompson, III

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From: redahi@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of B.A.McClintock  
<redahi@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:32 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
B.A. McClintock  
Honolulu, HI 96814

Edward Thompson, III

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From: kbehnke1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Karen Behnke <kbehnke1@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:23 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

I support equity in health care

Dear Committee Members,

I support equity in health care. Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

HB 2676 comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Karen Behnke  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Edward Thompson, III

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From: ENICOSON1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of EMMA NICOSON <ENICOSON1@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:08 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
EMMA NICOSON  
Kapolei, HI 96707

Edward Thompson, III

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From: m\_stauber@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michael Stauber  
<m\_stauber@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:01 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michael Stauber  
Koloa, HI 96756

Edward Thompson, III

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From: Joseph@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joseph Kohn MD  
<Joseph@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 1:46 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Mahalo nui!

[www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Kohn MD  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Edward Thompson, III

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From: info@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Debra Nix  
<info@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 1:35 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Debra Nix  
Kihei, HI 96753

Edward Thompson, III

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From: nix@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of John Nix <nix@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 1:34 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
John Nix  
Kihei, HI 96753



Edward Thompson, III

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From: shannoncavarocchi7@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Shannon Cavarocchi  
<shannoncavarocchi7@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 5:14 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Shannon Cavarocchi  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 5:08:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Justin Salisbury	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a man, I have the right to choose what happens with my body in health care. A woman should have the same right.

I am personally the product of my parents going to Planned Parenthood for reproductive and family planning services. Planned Parenthood helped my parents, both of whom were low-income and mixed-race young adults, to receive the support that they needed so that they could plan when they had me and ensure that i was born healthy.

I am a Christian and a strong supporter of Planned Parenthood. Please support this bill to help future babies have the opportunities that I have had.

Justin Mark Hideaki Salisbury

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
*House Committee on Health*

Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Hawaii State Capitol Conference Room 329

In support of H.B. 2676, Relating to health care.

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and esteemed members of the committee,

Hawai'i residents are facing a statewide **crisis**. After the Federal Administration unleashed devastating laws on the nationwide family planning funding program, many of our health centers lost almost half of their funding and patients lost access to essential health programs and resources. Our community includes many **people from low-income families** and people on the **outer islands** have little to no access to reproductive health services.

When I turned twenty-one, I learned that women's wellness checks are recommended for women starting from the age of eighteen! I was three years late for my first pap smear. What allowed me to afford this service was my mother's insurance, which still allows me to be labeled as a dependent under her. Despite this insurance, I still needed to provide co-pays for the services and as a struggling college student, it made me reluctant to go to receive this exam. Last year, a very close friend of mine since the sixth grade passed away from colon cancer. Certainly, even recommended preventive health screenings (which start at around the age of 40 for colon cancer) would not have helped due to her age. However, her passing was the reason that I got over my reluctance to go in and get my check-up. This special circumstance prompted me to go in to receive possibly life-saving screening services, but how many other young women have put off their exams due to the burden of expense and co-pays?

Sexual and reproductive health services are essential to women's health and the health of our local community. As you may well know, **rates of STIs such as gonorrhea and chlamydia** have **increased** exponentially in recent years, and the people of our community are falling victim to a lack of resources and services. The wealth gap between the super-rich and poverty-stricken has shown no signs of slowing or reducing and people from low-income families in Hawai'i find themselves with a lack of not only resources but also service availability.

As a constituent of this legislature and a lifelong citizen of Hawai'i, I am submitting this testimony **in support of H.B. 2767**, which would require insurance coverage with no out-of-pocket cost for a broad range of preventive reproductive and sexual health care services including contraception, vasectomy, abortion, STI and HIV screening, PrEP, breastfeeding support and supplies, domestic violence and breast and cervical cancer screenings, and more for all people in Hawaii. Such family planning services are critical to the health and well-being of the members of our community and insurance support has the potential to save the lives of many women across the islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill,  
Emma Ishihara.

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 8:35:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:30:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 10:36:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I support HB 2676, which would expand private insurance coverage requirements. This legislation would strengthen and expand our state law by requiring insurers to cover a wide range of sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion and vasectomy, with no co-pays and on a non-discriminatory basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Edward Thompson, III

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From: rss11j@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ryan Santana  
<rss11j@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:48 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

I urge you to think about the people who do not have access to the reproductive and sexual health care services that they need. I cannot imagine having a successful life or bodily autonomy with access to such services. Access to health care should be a human right, not a privilege.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Santana  
Honolulu, HI 98615

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:20:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shandhini Raidoo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee on Health,

I am an practicing obstetrician-gynecologist in Hawaii and I am writing to you in strong support of HB 2676. I have seen firsthand how important it is for people to have access to reproductive health services and that it supports them and their families in having healthy, fulfilling lives. Being unable to access contraceptive services, abortion, and other reproductive healthcare can have devastating consequences for people and this bill is extremely important to ensure that all people can access the care that they need.

I strongly urge you to support this bill and uphold the reproductive healthcare for all of Hawaii's people.

Sincerely,

Shandhini Raidoo, MD, MPH



**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:10:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pai-Jong Stacy Tsai	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I am a practicing OB/gyn in Hawaii and I support equitable access to comprehensive reproductive health care services for all of Hawaii's people. I have seen firsthand the devastating consequences when people cannot access basic health care. Please support HB 2676.

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:16:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danielle Ogez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an obgyn in Honolulu and I strongly support this bill. We need to protect access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services in Hawaii. I take care of vulnerable patients everyday who benefit from the services, which benefits the entire community. I strongly support this bill and urge you to do the same.

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:38:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melanie Maykin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The people of Hawaii deserve equitable access to comprehensive reproductive health care services. I have seen firsthand the devastating consequences when people cannot access basic health care. Please support HB 2676.

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:44:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bliss Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I am a practicing OB/gyn in Hawaii and I support equitable access to comprehensive reproductive health care services for all of Hawaii's people. I have seen firsthand the devastating consequences when people cannot access basic health care. Please support HB 2676.

Edward Thompson, III

---

From: Mngr@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Maricella Gutierrez-Ramirez  
<Mngr@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:56 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. I AM UNDER ATTACK. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Maricella Gutierrez-Ramirez  
Aiea, HI 96701

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 10:05:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I am a practicing OB/gyn in Hawaii and I support equitable access to comprehensive reproductive health care services for all of Hawaii's people. I have seen firsthand the devastating consequences when people cannot access basic health care. Please support HB 2676.

Edward Thompson, III

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From: barbaratravis@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Barb Travis  
<barbaratravis@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:48 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Barb Travis  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Edward Thompson, III

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From: terrytravis@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Terry Travis  
<terrytravis@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:48 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Terry Travis  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706



Edward Thompson, III

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From: tdykas@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Taylor Dykas  
<tdykas@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 8:21 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

As a young woman living in the United States with health coverage, I have been lucky to say the least, to be able to see health care providers when I needed to and obtain affordable contraceptives. Not everyone is as fortunate as me, and all I want is health coverage for everyone. Health care and sexual health care is a human right, so I urge you to pass this bill.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on the reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Taylor Dykas  
Waimanalo, HI 96795

Edward Thompson, III

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From: mauiwit@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Christine Andrews  
<mauiwit@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 7:31 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Christine Andrews  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Edward Thompson, III

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From: joanne.amberg@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joanne Amberg  
<joanne.amberg@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 7:28 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

I have worked at FQHCs on Oahu for almost 30 years. Please support the most vulnerable families in our state. Please continue to lead the nation in support of reproductive health care for all. This is especially important with our current Federal administration.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Joanne Amberg  
Kailua, HI 96734

Edward Thompson, III

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From: mauiwit@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Christine Andrews  
<mauiwit@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 7:27 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

As the mother to two teenage daughters, one who uses birth control pills to treat her endometriosis, access to reproductive and sexual health care is a critical health issue for me. I ask for your support of this important bill.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Christine Andrews  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Edward Thompson, III

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From: amblades@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of April Blades  
<amblades@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 4:45 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

The people of Hawai'i deserve access to affordable health care. I support equality in health care and urge you to support HB 2676.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
April Blades  
Honolulu, HI 96814

Edward Thompson, III

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From: annsfreed@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Ann Freed  
<annsfreed@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 10:48 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Ann Freed  
Mililani, HI 96789

Edward Thompson, III

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From: jimsia@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of James Morris  
<jimsia@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:54 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
James Morris  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Edward Thompson, III

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From: louisessimrell@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Louise Simrell  
<louisessimrell@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:47 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Louise Simrell  
Honokaa, HI 96727



Edward Thompson, III

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From: alani.bagcal@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alani Bagcal  
<alani.bagcal@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:43 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

As a 24 year old woman who needs accessible well woman exams and con traception to succeed, I have had the privilege of reproductive health care being affordable for me. Not everyone has this privilege, but everyone is in need of reproductive and sexual health care. I urge you to support this bill because health care should be treated as a human right, not a privilege.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Alani Bagcal  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Edward Thompson, III

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From: adamp@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia Adams  
<adamp@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:43 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Adams  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Edward Thompson, III

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From: annef@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Anne Fojtasek  
<annef@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 8:27 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Anne Fojtasek  
Kapaa, HI 96755

Edward Thompson, III

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From: MissingBenRose@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Cindy Lance  
<MissingBenRose@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:26 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Lance  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Edward Thompson, III

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From: dsegalmatsu@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Doris Matsunaga  
<dsegalmatsu@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:15 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Doris Matsunaga  
Aiea, HI 96701

Edward Thompson, III

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From: woonicole@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Nicole Woo  
<woonicole@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:08 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

I support this bill because it requires insurance coverage with no out-of-pocket cost for a broad range of preventive reproductive and sexual health care services for all people in Hawaii.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Woo  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Edward Thompson, III

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From: grammawl@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lesley Patton  
<grammawl@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 6:33 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Lesley Patton  
Kapaau, HI 96755

Edward Thompson, III

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From: der1way@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Donald Erway  
<der1way@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 6:22 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Donald Erway  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740



Edward Thompson, III

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From: chucktaylor111@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Chuck Taylor <chucktaylor111@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 5:41 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Chuck Taylor  
Wailea, HI 96753

Edward Thompson, III

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From: mam33@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Melissa Martinez <mam33@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 9:29 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

Hawaii especially has a need to provide affordable reproductive health care with higher rates of STDs than many other states in the nation.

Furthermore, with the highest cost of living in the nation, many employed and hard working people struggle to make ends meet, and are not able to prioritize their reproductive health care financially.

The state must take action on this issue for change to happen and especially for insurance companies to treat their insured people fairly.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Martinez  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Edward Thompson, III

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From: naomibaldomero@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Naomi Baldomero  
<naomibaldomero@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 9:54 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Naomi Baldomero  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Edward Thompson, III

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From: nelsons006@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of ROs NElson <nelsons006@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 10:10 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
ROs NElson  
Kamuela, HI 96743

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 11:40:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Colleen Inouye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Reps. Mizuno and Kobayashi,

I am a practicing OB/GYN in Hawaii and I support equitable access to comprehensive reproductive health care services for all of Hawaii's people.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen F Inouye MD MMM FACOG

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 12:47:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amanda	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 3:10:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vickie Parker Kam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Vickie Kam and I am writing in support of HB2676 relating to reproductive rights in health care. As a state we have been a leader in supporting reproductive rights. The need to continue to support Hawaii citizens in this health care issue is critical. Many states throughout the country are currently enduring cutbacks or outright news laws that do not enforce a persons individual right to make health care decisions. Employers have the right to make their own personal decisions regarding their PERSONAL care - not impact or decide for employees how they should be cared for or force a decision on them. Employing someone does not negate their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness just because you have differing personal beliefs.

Please support HB2676, support the future of the next generations personal choice, support the rights of employees to follow their own minds for their personal health care decisions.

Much Mahalo - Vickie Kam

**LATE**



January 29, 2020

Representative Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Health  
Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session 2020

**RE: SUPPORT for House Bill 2676 – Related to Health Care  
Hearing Date – January 30, 2020**

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and members of the Committee on Health:

On behalf of Bayer US (“Bayer”), I write to respectfully submit testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 2676 which will help ensure that women in Hawaii have continued access to the contraception option that best meets their individual needs. As a global leader in women’s healthcare – and the premier manufacturer of both short-term and long-term birth control products – Bayer strongly supports efforts to ensure that women have access to all forms of FDA approved contraception.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), most health insurance plans are required to cover all FDA approved birth control methods with no co-pay. As a result, determinations regarding the best contraceptive choices are left to patients and their doctors and are not influenced by co-pays or other medical management techniques that have the potential to steer women towards less effective methods of contraception. Prior to the ACA contraceptive mandate, only 42% of women had access to a hormonal intrauterine device (IUD) – which the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) classifies as the most effective form of reversible contraceptive – without a co-pay. After the ACA was implemented, the percentage of women with zero co-pay access to IUDs has increased to almost 90 percent. Not surprisingly, improved access to more effective contraception has coincided with a continued drop in the rate of teenage pregnancy, unintended pregnancy, and abortion in the United States.

Despite this progress, legislative and regulatory efforts to weaken the ACA at the federal level threaten the continuation of the contraceptive mandate. To ensure that women continue to have affordable access to the contraceptive method that works best for them, several states – including California, Illinois, Nevada, Washington, and Oregon – have already adopted state legislation that codifies the ACA’s contraceptive mandate. Multiple other states are considering similar legislation this year. By passing HB 2676, the Legislature will ensure that Hawaii maintains its leadership role in ensuring access to vital preventative services and continues its progress towards reducing the rate of unintended pregnancies and the associated costs to the State’s Medicaid program.



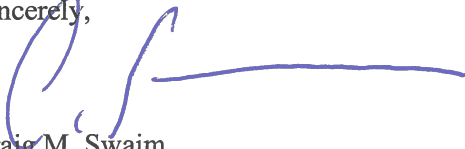
It is important to note that HB 2676 would not favor one birth control method over another and would not prohibit the substitution for a generic or lower cost branded product in cases where an FDA approved therapeutic equivalent to the prescribed product is available. As such, the bill ensures that women have access to the birth control method that best meets their needs, while still allowing health plans to manage costs by covering a lower cost option when appropriate.

For these reasons, Bayer supports HB 2676.

Bayer is one of the world's leading, innovative, life science companies. Bayer's aim is to discover, develop, manufacture, and market products that will improve human and plant health worldwide. Headquartered in Leverkusen, Germany Bayer is proud to employ over 20,000 U.S employees including nearly 600 in Hawaii.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding Bayer's position.

Sincerely,



Craig M. Swaim  
Deputy Director, State Government Affairs  
West Region



Hawaii Association of Health Plans

January 29, 2020

House Committee on Health  
The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**LATE**

**House Bill 2676 – Relating to Health Care**

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 2676.

HAHP appreciates the intent of this bill, but we have serious concerns with the expansion of coverage for reproductive services beyond what has been established by the Affordable Care Act. As this would be a new mandated benefit, it is subject to an impact assessment report by the Auditor pursuant to Sections 23-51 and 23-52 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for allowing us to respectfully express our opposition to HB 2676.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members

**LATE**

**HB-2676**

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:52:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/30/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mandy Fernandes	ACLU of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

Edward Thompson, III

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From: Iksaloha@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of laurie saarinen  
<Iksaloha@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 5:22 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Subject: I support equity in health care

Dear Hawaii House Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. HB 2676 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support HB 2676 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
laurie saarinen  
Hilo, HI 96720