STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3298**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR - 5 2006

RE: H.B. No. 2317

Honorable Robert Bunda President of the Senate Twenty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2006 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 2317 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to make permanent the requirement that health insurers treat a bona fide trade association and its members as a single group at the option of the trade association for the purpose of issuing a health insurance policy.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; the Hawaii Transportation Association; Retail Merchants of Hawaii; the Hawaii Association of Realtors; and a certified public accountant. No testimony in opposition was received by your Committee.

According to the Insurance Commissioner, at least twenty-seven trade associations receive some form of health insurance premium discounts, and about 15,000 members receive their health insurance through these trade associations.

Your Committee finds that this measure provides a valuable option to those individuals who would not have the same opportunities for health insurance coverage as larger businesses in the absence of this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2317, and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Housing,

RON MENOR, Chair

The Senate Twenty-Third Legislature State of Hawaii

Record of Votes of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Housing (Bills and Resolutions)

Measure:* HB 2317 Committee Referral: CPH 3/31/06				
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.				
If so, then the previous decision was to:				
The Recommendation is to:				
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit (2312) (2311) (2310) (2313)				
Members	Ayes	Ayes(WR)	Nays	Excused
MENOR, Ron (C)				
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (VC)				
ESPERO, Will	V			
IGE, David Y.	V			
SAKAMOTO, Norman				
HOGUE, Bob				
TOTAL	5			1
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: Kasely Hal				
Distribution: U Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

^{*}Do not list more than one measure per Record of Votes.