

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1661

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 05 2007

RE: H.B. No. 1479
H.D. 2
S.D. 2

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
Affordable Housing, to which was referred H.B. No. 1479, H.D. 2,
S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE SUPPORT FOR
SMALL BUSINESSES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require group health
issuers to offer all group health plans to self-employed
individuals in their service areas.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this
measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the
Hawaii Association of Realtors, and the Maui Chamber of Commerce.
The Hawaii Association of Health Plans submitted written comments
in opposition to this measure. The Hawaii Medical Service
Association submitted written comments.

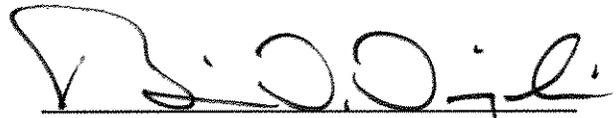
Your Committee finds that presently, there is no mandate that
group health insurers offer group health plans to self-employed
individuals. This measure will require group health insurers to
offer group health plans and will also allow insurers to impose
certain limitations with regard to the timing of enrollment and
reenrollment in order to control adverse selection and to plan
member costs.



Your Committee has amended this measure by amending the definition of a "self-employed individual" to require that the individual be licensed by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs for the business the individual operates.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1479, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1479, H.D. 2, S.D. 2.

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



BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



