



LATE

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LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH
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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Tuesday, February 10, 2009
8:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1514 – RELATING TO MEDICAL TORTS.

TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is J.P. Schmidt, State Insurance Commissioner (“Commissioner”),
testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
(“Department”). The Department supports the intent of this bill which is to reduce the
costs of medical malpractice insurance.

The purpose of this bill is to add a new section to Hawaii Revised Statutes
(“HRS”) chapter 671 which imposes a \$1 million limit on noneconomic damages for
board-certified neurologists and neurosurgeons.

The Department prefers House Bill No. 1120, which is intended to provide a
more rational atmosphere for the practice of medicine in Hawaii and to reduce the cost
of medical malpractice insurance for all health care providers.

We thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter
and ask for your favorable consideration.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: frances1215@gmail.com on behalf of Frances Nuar [frances.nuar@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 9:07 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony on HB 1514

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HB 1514

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii supports a ceiling on non-economic damages in torts involving neurologist and neurosurgeons. Fifty percent of neurosurgeons are sued every year, driving many out of practice. Premiums for neurosurgeons have also skyrocketed, with the average annual premium rising from \$44,170 to \$86,724 only five years later. The American Medical Association research shows that caps on noneconomic damages are linked to malpractice premium reductions of at least 17 percent, which will retain more specialists to serve the people of Hawaii.

Frances Nuar
Policy Intern

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

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The mission of the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii is to promote individual liberty, free market economic principles and limited, more accountable government. Please visit our [website](http://www.grassrootinstitute.org) to make a tax-deductible donation or to learn more.