

**dige3 - Jamie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 11:34 AM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** erinann815@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2844 on 2/8/2010 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 2/8/2010 2:45:00 PM SB2844

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: erin rutherford  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [erinann815@aol.com](mailto:erinann815@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

**Comments:**

denying full coverage to an aids patient is outright discrimination. it does not matter what disease a person has, that person HAS THE RIGHT TO ANY MEDICAL COVERAGE AVAILABLE. it is only a sensical, decent, humane decision to make.

**LATE**

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

Re: SENATE BILL 2844

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 5, 2010

TIME: 2:55 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Position: **In Strong Support** when  
merged in part with all of SB  
2774, Hearing is on Monday at  
2:45 P. M.

Testimony submitted in person by:

Joseph B. Rattner, O. D., MHA, CSAC

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Representing Myself;

Clients of West O`ahu Hope For A Cure Foundation or WOHFAC and

Other members of our Society, which are told their last hope for Life is because they are in need of any Anatomical Transplants.

Aloha Senate Health Committee Chair Senator David Ige, Vice Chair & Senator Dr. Josh Green and other respected members of the Health Committee,

For Clients that couldn't submit or even be here to testify, because their health is slowly either deteriorating, or they simply just don't have a computer (most HIV+ situations), so getting the word out isn't as hard as getting their testimonies and their showing up for a Hearing with the Stigma and Discrimination so strong, which is why it must end right away! This testimony is on their behalf and on mine due to my present health status in which the State seems to be sticking to a policy to automatically disqualify Insured or uninsured Patients with the HIV or AIDS virus even if they are deemed healthy enough for the Transplant, there should be no denial.

Patients with Infectious Diseases like Hepatitis B and C Patients who have spent all their life drinking Alcohol, and need an Organ like a Liver or a piece of one and are not denied at all, they are actually welcome to the Registry which is the way it should be for Patients with HIV/AIDS.

Equal Rights for Equal Patients is warranted due to the lengthy life span of present infected Patients with HIV or AIDS. They have T-cells more than 400 which is deemed normal and a Viral Load that couldn't even detect which medications are best because there is no active or present virus to base these decisions on.

This Bill was first introduced as HB 2119 four years ago which turned out to be re-referred and there wasn't ample time for these chronically ill Patients, that

Hawai`i brags about being Compassionate to, I am in hope that this Committee on Health agrees with the text of both SB 2844 and SB 2774, because together we are sending a message to our Country that Discrimination is not even conceivable here in Hawai`i and no Patient diagnosed with HIV or AIDS that fit all the rest of the normal Transplant Teams and Nephrologists' ideologies.

**My life lies in the hands of you, the 25<sup>th</sup> Legislature.** The reason, because I had an interaction with an antiretroviral for my HIV that shocked and shut down my Kidneys' that I must now be on Dialysis 3 days a week from 5:00 P. M.- 9:00 P. M., and am in need of a Transplant. I might be lucky and my kidneys might just revert back to their normal functions which all Dialysis Patients dream of but it very rarely happens and under not so normal circumstances that the Kidney functions were lost to begin with.

I can only pray that my kidneys' react to my new Lifestyle and diet, otherwise, without the passage of these Bills, I am automatically disqualified and denied Life by the **Transplant Team of Hawai`i and the Dept of Health's Discriminatory Policy** as they **enforce denying Life to those that have HIV or AIDS**, yet fulfill all other criteria for an Anatomical Transplant OR Gift, should never need to deal with the Stigma and Prejudice of the decision makers because it is as though they are picking and choosing, who within the same class of Infectious Diseases qualify.

Please also remember that when it comes to Health disparities as these are, there can be no more question of disqualification before they walk in, (I was told on the phone, not a good feeling), whether under Insurance, Public Assistance or indigent as well as the uninsured.

I urge you all PLEASE do **not** re-refer this Bill, but amend it by merging it with the text of SB 2774, which speaks on everyone's behalf and not just the Insured.

Many mahalos, for allowing me to Testify.

It is always an honor to testify in front of Legislatures such as all of you.

Peace and Aloha,

Joe Rattner, O. D., MHA, CSAC

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Founder and Chief Operating Officer

West O`ahu Hope For A Cure Foundation

**LATE**

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

RE: SB 2844

Position: Strong Support when merged in part with SB 2774, Hearing is on  
Monday at 2:45

DATE: Monday, February 5, 2010

TIME: 2:55 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Testimony submitted in person by:

Lila G. Rattner

Advisory Board President of

West O`ahu Hope For A Cure Foundation Inc.

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Aloha Senate Health Chair Ige, and other respected members of the Senate Health Committee,

I wish to thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the chronically ill on our Islands. We have been blessed with the ability to sustain life yet under the present policies in our State health Dept patients with HIV/AIDS do not qualify for transplantation of any kind.

Years ago when AIDS was diagnosed it was a death sentence within a short time. Today because of the research and the advances in new medications, patients are living for more than 25 years. Some patients are even undetectable in their viral load.

There shouldn't be any discrimination in the health care system to disallow these patients to qualify for organ transplantation. They have the right to live just as much as any other chronically ill person. They have family, they are your neighbors, they worship with you, they go to your schools, they are part of our culture, and they want a long happy life. Do not deny them the ability to live a normal life, pain free.

Sincerely yours,

Lila Rattner/West Oahu Hope For A Cure Foundation

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