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DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Before the
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and via Video Conferencing

On the following measure:
H.B. 1966, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to require health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide health insurance coverage for various sexual and reproductive health care services and to apply the same coverage to health benefits plans under the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, effective January 1, 2025.

We note that it is unclear whether the amendments in sections 2 through 7 of this bill, which require health plans to provide benefits for various sexual and reproductive health care services, would be construed as "in addition to the essential health benefits" within the meaning of 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 155.170(a), or subject to

Testimony of DCCA

H.B. 1966

Page 2 of 2

defrayment provisions under 45 CFR § 155.170(b) which apply to benefits “in addition to the essential health benefits.”

For the Committee’s information, Hawaii Revised Statutes section 23-51 provides, in part, that “[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health insurance coverage for specific health services, specific diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part of individual or group health insurance policies, [sic] can be considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature a report[.]”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:25:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Romina Jo Opulencia Banayo	University of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OB/GYN in the state of Hawaii, and we need this bill to pass. Too many of my patients are being affected by co-pays and unable to access the reproductive health care they need.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:56:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports HB 1966.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:35:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pride at Work - Hawaii	Pride at Work – Hawai‘i	Support	Written Testimony Only

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. P@W-HI fully supports

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:39:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Save Medicaid Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save Medicaid Hawaii supports HB1966 requiring all health insurers to cover reproductive health services without co-pay.



January 31, 2024

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair
Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus

RE: HB 1966 Relating to Health Care

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in strong support of HB 1966 Relating to Health Care. This is a crucial measure for women's health. It would require insurers to cover a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services with no out-of-pocket costs, including critical preventive care services which avoids the need for more expensive treatment and other costs in the future.

The measure also ensures comprehensive coverage for sexual and reproductive health care services including family planning and abortion; care that is essential to women's health and care they are absolutely entitled to.

This measure is a priority for the Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus. The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls.

We respectfully request that the Committee pass this crucial measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in strong support of HB 1966 Relating to Health.



To: Health and Homeless Committee
Hearing Date/Time: January 31, 2024/8:30 AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of H.B. No. 1966

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti and Vice-Chair Jenna Takenouchi and Members of the Health and Homeless Committee:

Members of AAUW of Hawaii thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. No. 1966 to ensure comprehensive coverage for sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning and abortion for all people in Hawai'i.

After the disastrous **Dobbs v. Jackson** (2022) U.S. Supreme Court decision, this legislature came together to support SB 1, ensuring all Hawai'i people access to abortion as well as protecting our outstanding medical providers. Nevertheless, **rights without the ability to pay for necessary medical care would basically nullify what was accomplished last year for so many women and others needing planned protection.**

Hawai'i has long been a leader in advancing reproductive rights and advocating for access to affordable and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care without discrimination. However, gaps in coverage and care still exist, and Hawaii benefits and protections have been threatened for years by a hostile federal administration under Trump that has attempted to restrict and repeal the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Affordable Care Act) and limit access to sexual and reproductive health care. The Trump administration was a nightmare: they made it increasingly difficult for insurers to cover abortion care and assembled a United States Supreme Court that restricted abortion access and that may eliminate the Affordable Care Act in the near future.

We understand that a host of the Affordable Care Act provisions could soon be eliminated, including coverage of preventive care with no patient cost-sharing. These changes would force people in Hawai'i to pay more health care costs out-of-pocket, delay or forego care, and risk their health and economic security. The COVID-19 pandemic cost thousands of people their jobs and health insurance. Forcing Hawai'i residents to pay more for preventive care would create a new public health crisis in the aftermath of a global pandemic.

Also access to sexual and reproductive health care is critical for the health and economic security of all people in Hawaii, particularly during a recession. Investing in no-cost preventive services ultimately saves the State money because providing preventive care avoids the need for more expensive treatment and management in the future. No-cost preventive services would also support families in financial difficulty by helping people remain healthy and plan their families in a way that is appropriate for them. Ensuring that Hawai'i's people receive comprehensive, client-centered, and

culturally competent sexual and reproductive health care is prudent economic policy that will improve the overall health of the State's communities.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Jubin Fujiwara, Esq.
Public Policy Committee, AAUW of Hawaii
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is an all-volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaua'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu. UH Hilo, UH Manoa, UH Maui College, and Windward Community College are also AAUW partners. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for equal opportunities in education, at workplace and for economic security, and in leadership.

January 31, 2024

To: Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness

From: The Hawaii Association of Health Plans Public Policy Committee

Date/Location: Jan. 31, 2024; 8:30 a.m./Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony with comments on HB 1966 - Relating to Health Care

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) would like to offer comments on HB 1966. HAHP is a statewide partnership that unifies Hawaii's health plans to improve the health of Hawaii's communities together. A majority of Hawaii residents receive their health coverage through a plan associated with one of our organizations.

Access to care is critically important, however, HAHP and our member organizations would like to express our concern that this bill is attempting to mandate new coverage beyond the Affordable Care Act by including non-preventative services as stated in ACA Section 1303.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1966.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee
cc: HAHP Board Members



January 31, 2024

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Re: HB 1966 – RELATING TO HEALTHCARE

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1966, which will require health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide health insurance coverage for various sexual and reproductive health care services. Applies this coverage to health benefits plans under the Hawai‘i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.

HMSA appreciates the legislature’s intent to encourage access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services in Hawaii. While most of our plans to cover these services, some grandfathered plans opt out of them as allowed for by the Affordable Care Act. We would like to offer some concerns with the bill as currently written:

1. In the section relating to “Contraceptive Supplies” (page 20, lines 12-16) it is unclear how any health insurance plan would be able to offer coverage for a “partner of the insured”.
2. It is also not clear whether the State can mandate a new coverage beyond the ACA that is a non-preventative service due to Section 1303 of the PPACA, as implemented in 45 CFR 156.280.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu
Assistant Vice President
Community and Government Relations

¹ Section 1303 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-B/part-156/subpart-C/section-156.280>

Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

January 31, 2024
8:30 am
Conference Room 329

HB 1966 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 appreciates the intent of this bill to solidify the essential health benefits under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, however, since last year's auditor's study concluded that "the sexual and reproductive health care services for which the bill would mandate health insurance coverage are already covered by policies issued in the State of Hawaii" and that "mandating that health insurers include coverage for the sexual and reproductive health care services listed in HB 1179 does not change the status quo", **Kaiser believes that this bill may be unnecessary**. See Page 9, *Study of Proposed Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage for Various Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Services (2023)* ("Auditor's Report"). The complete Auditor's Report and its findings may be viewed at <http://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2023/23-10.pdf>

Also, Kaiser is concerned that this bill is attempting to mandate new coverage beyond the ACA by including non-preventative services. For example, the Auditor's Report identified that certain of the bill's sexual and reproductive services "may be subject to cost sharing by the State of Hawaii, should the services described in HB 1179 be mandated." See Page 13, Auditor's Report. Therefore, as a non-preventative service (and non-essential health benefit under the ACA), standard office visit/hospital inpatient cost shares would apply.

Thank you for your consideration.



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 & Homelessness
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:30 AM

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and video conference

FROM: Hawai'i Section, ACOG
Angel Willey, MD, FACOG - ACOG Section Chair
Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG - ACOG Section Legislative Chair

Re: HB 1966 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) **strongly supports HB 1966**, or the Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA), which would require health insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage with no cost-sharing for various sexual and reproductive health care services.

As reproductive health care physicians, we see firsthand every day how people across the 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. We have also seen the devastating consequences of delayed care due to financial concerns and inadequate insurance coverage. We have cared for patients who did not receive the standard-of-care cervical cancer screening because it is not covered by their insurance plan. 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 people of Hawai'i have timely, affordable access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare.

Hawai'i has a proud legacy of progressive action and legislation protecting reproductive rights, access to abortion care, and family planning. With the overturning of *Roe v Wade* and more and more states restricting access to comprehensive reproductive health care, it is even more important that we pass legislation to protect our rights and access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care. We cannot depend on federal legislation to ensure access to this essential basic healthcare.

Hawai'i should join other states such as Oregon and Washington in passing RHEA. As the leading physicians in reproductive health care, we respectfully urge you to pass HB 1966.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



To: Hawai'i State House Health & Homelessness Committee
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 8:30 AM
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 329 and videoconference
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i in **strong support of RHEA (HB 1966)**

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee,

Facing a potentially hostile federal administration and lawsuits threatening preventive services coverage, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i (PPAA) strongly supports the Reproductive Health Equity Act ("RHEA"), a critical Women's Package bill aimed at fortifying ACA health benefits, safeguarding equitable access to abortion care, and protecting coverage of critical cost-saving preventive services.

The 2023 Auditor's report verified that there will be little-to-no financial impact of RHEA and that covering the no cost-sharing provisions will be immaterial and insignificant to insurance carriers' budgets. All people in Hawai'i – regardless of income, wealth, or type of insurance – should have access to the full range of preventive sexual and reproductive health services at no cost.

The Reproductive Health Equity Act is a critical step toward health equity in Hawai'i by requiring insurance coverage of the full range of sexual and reproductive health care and critical preventive care services without cost-sharing.

Given the potential of a hostile federal administration and lawsuits like *Braidwood Management v. Becerra* threatening preventive services, it is more important than ever that the legislature act to ensure that nobody loses access to the health care and protections they depend on. RHEA will do just that.

We need legislation to codify the Affordable Care Act (ACA) preventive service coverage requirements in state law, ensuring that people in Hawai'i do not lose their access to no-cost preventive services such as birth control, well-person exams, PrEP, and life-saving cancer screenings. RHEA would also strengthen and expand these coverage requirements by no cost-sharing coverage of the full range of sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion and vasectomy.

Without action, people in Hawai'i will continue to delay or forego care altogether due to out-of-pocket costs, risking their health and economic security. Even with the Affordable Care Act, one in five women with private insurance still pay some out-of-pocket costs for their contraceptive care, and 25 percent of women who are not using their preferred method say it is because they cannot afford it.^[1] We are also already experiences some of the consequences of Hawai'i's coverage gaps in health outcomes: for example, Hawai'i's sexually transmitted infections (STIs) rates are the highest they have been in 30 years, with the STI rates more than doubling over the last ten years.

Last year, Hawai‘i lawmakers took a step in the right direction by passing the shield law that protects access abortion care. We can further fortify Hawai‘i’s long-standing history in advancing abortion rights by passing the coverage requirements for abortion care in RHEA into law.

RHEA will help us enact 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; for example, preventing unplanned pregnancies creates significant cost-savings, and early detection of sexually transmitted infections, diabetes, and cervical cancers lead to significant cost savings to the health system. Nearly all the services that RHEA requires are already mandated by the ACA, and even if some of the services are determined to be new mandated benefits, covering these services would likely be either cost-neutral or even cost savings for health plans in the long term.

The 2023 Auditor report reaffirmed RHEA’s cost-effectiveness and verified that there will be little-to-no financial impact of RHEA, as nearly all the services are currently covered by health plans. Moreover, the Auditor notes that fiscal impact on health carriers of eliminating cost-sharing will, if any, be immaterial and insignificant to insurers’ total costs. While covering these costs will likely have little impact on insurers, RHEA’s no cost-sharing provisions will be indispensable to patients, who will benefit immensely from eliminating cost sharing for services like abortion or vasectomy.

RHEA is similar to coverage requirements in other states.

Many other states have already implemented requirements found in RHEA, including the comprehensive sexual and reproductive health requirements. For example:

- Many other states have already implemented the requirements found in RHEA, including Washington, Oregon, Illinois, and California. Last year, Washington also passed a bill to ensure patients would not have to pay out-of-pocket for abortion care. This means [eight states](#) now mandate coverage of abortion services with no cost-sharing.
- In 2018, the Washington Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill 6219, also known as the Reproductive Parity Act.^[2] 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 ACA, 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 ACA. In 2024, Washington is also moving a bill to protect ACA preventive services coverage requires, HB 1957.
- In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3391, also known as the Reproductive Health Equity Act.^[3] 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.^[4]

Several states have also put in place laws that codify existing requirements from the ACA 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.^[6] The requirements of this legislation are broader than Hawai‘i’s RHEA, but the reproductive preventive health services are nearly identical to the coverage required in §431:10A-A(a)(1). 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.”^[7] As OIC rightly stated, these are not new requirements: RHEA and similar legislation in other states simply require health plans to continue covering the basic health care that the ACA already requires them to cover. For example, states must already comply with coverage for any additional preventive women’s services under 42 U.S. Code section 300gg-13 of the ACA; indeed, the scope of federally-required benefits expanded in December 2021.^[8] 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. And other states have also determined that passing legislation that includes broader coverage requirements than those included in the ACA 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 sexual and reproductive health care. ACA requirements also continue to expand and evolve, making the impact of RHEA on Hawai‘i 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.

Thousands of people in Hawai‘i still lack access to the full range of reproductive health services.

Access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care is critical for the health and economic security of people in Hawai‘i. RHEA will give more people in Hawai‘i the ability to decide if and when they have children based on what’s best for them and their family’s circumstances. Hawai‘i 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 Hawai‘i families access to the health care they need to thrive by supporting HB 1966.

[1] Frederiksen, B. et al, *Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health Services: Key Findings from the 2020 Women’s Health Survey*. Kaiser Family Foundation, April 21, 2021. Available at: <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health-services-key-findings-from-the-2020-kff-womens-health-survey/>

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

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

[4] 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>

[5] California State Legislature, *Senate Bill 245*, 2022. Accessed at https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=20210220SB245

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

[7] 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>

[8] Health Resources & Services Administration, *Women's Preventive Services Guidelines: Affordable Care Act Expands Prevention Coverage for Women's Health and Well-Being* (2021). Accessed at: <https://www.hrsa.gov/womens-guidelines/index.html>

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:52:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports HB1966. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member



January 30, 2024

Representative Della Au Belatti
Chair, Committee on Health & Homelessness
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1966 (Marten): Reproductive Health Equity Act - SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Essential Access Health (Essential Access), I write in strong support of HB 1966, the Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) which requires insurers to cover a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services with no out-of-pocket costs, including abortion, vasectomy, treatment to prevent HIV, and other critical preventive care services.

Essential Access champions and promotes quality sexual and reproductive health care for all. We achieve our mission through an umbrella of programs and services including clinic support initiatives, provider training, advanced clinical research, advocacy, and public awareness campaigns.

HB 1966 will give more people in Hawai'i the ability to protect their health and decide if and when they have children based on what's best for them and their family's circumstances.

Hawai'i must continue its leadership in promoting all people's ability to access the health care they want and need, and I urge you to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Co-CEO
Essential Access Health

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:23:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:35:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene Viggiano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RHEA is a crucial bill that requires insurers to cover a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services with no out-of-pocket cost, including abortion, vasectomy, treatment to avoid HIV, and other critical preventive care services. Please support this bill.

January 29, 2024

This testimony is submitted to support HB 1966, the Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA).

I share my personal experience in hopes of showcasing the vital importance of this bill. In my 20's I had an unplanned pregnancy which I sought advice from my OB/Gyn physician. I was not interested in continuing with the pregnancy, but the physician informed me that the pregnancy was too early to terminate and that blood tests would be in order. While waiting for those test results, I had severe abdominal pain and came back for an urgent appointment with this same physician- to which my complaints of pain were dismissed as cramps. Over the course of the next 2 weeks I called the physician's office and came in person multiple times because of acute abdominal pain, requesting a pregnancy termination but being dismissed each time with orders to complete further blood tests. In a few weeks time, I suddenly became paralyzed from the waist down and passed a large amount of blood. My partner carried me to the emergency room, where I lost consciousness from internal bleeding. The emergency room discovered that I had an ectopic pregnancy that had ruptured and I had lost a large amount of blood that required immediate emergency surgery. That procedure took me 2 weeks to recover with unpaid time off work, an additional 4 weeks of part time work, and hospital bill costs more than I could afford. After recovery, I never regained a menstrual cycle, and had to undergo therapy for post traumatic stress disorder from the near-death emergency. Years later when I was ready to have a child, I had no choice but to utilize assisted reproductive technology to conceive, which came at significant financial cost not covered by insurance.

All of these experiences could have been avoided, and my young adult life could have been reclaimed, had the medical provider honored my request to terminate the pregnancy.

As in my case, medical emergencies are often not clear until they are too late or almost too late; and laws creating obstacles to pregnancy terminations or removing an individual's autonomy regarding decisions about their pregnancy often cause avoidable physical, mental, and financial burden; or even death.

The RHEA will give more people in Hawai'i the ability to protect their health, which includes the ability to decide if and when they have children based on what's best for their individual circumstances.

Hawai'i must continue its leadership in promoting all people's ability to access the health care they need and deserve, no matter what happens at the federal level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leah Kaplan', written in a cursive style.

Leah Kaplan

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:02:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Cheng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1966 and the inclusion of abortions in what is being called "reproductive health care services". The termination of life in the womb does not fall under health care and should not be funded by taxpayers, especially when it goes against moral values. There is no such thing as "no-cost", someone pays for it and that is each citizen who pays taxes, therefore "Investing in no-cost preventive services will ultimately save the State money because providing preventive care avoids the need for more expensive treatment and management in the future." (Pg 2, lines 9-12) is false. Not only will it cost, but it will bring more harm than good to both mother and child, as the mother will suffer psychological harm and possible bodily harm and the child's life is ended. This helps no one.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Cheng

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:03:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pete Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RHEA is a crucial bill that requires insurers to cover a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services with no out-of-pocket cost, including abortion, vasectomy, treatment to avoid HIV, and other critical preventive care services. I am fully in support of reproductive health care for all.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:04:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RHEA is a crucial bill that requires insurers to cover a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services with no out-of-pocket cost, including abortion, vasectomy, treatment to avoid HIV, and other critical preventive care services.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:07:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha HLT Committee,

As a public health professional, I write in **STRONG** Support of HB1966, which would expand access to recommended preventive services, thereby strengthening the health of communities statewide.

Mahalo for your consideration of this important bill.

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:19:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha from Kauai. I support **HB 1966, the Reproductive Health Equity Act. RHEA will give more people in Hawai'i the ability to protect their health and decide if and when they have children based on what's best for them and their family's circumstances. Hawai'i must continue its leadership in promoting all people's ability to access the health care they need and deserve, no matter what happens at the federal level.**

Do the right thing.

Thank you. Mary Lu Kelley

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:30:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1966

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:39:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1966.

Thank you,

Teri Savaiinaea

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:01:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Detwiler	Hawaii Federation of Republican Women	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

I oppose HB1966 for the following reasons:

1. The Hawaii Federation of Republican Women along with our national organization uphold the sanctity of life from conception to natural end of life. HB1966 supports abortion and therefore we do not support this bill.
2. Insurance requirements. As a former healthcare administrator and current licensed social worker, HB1966 is not feasible. It would be interesting to know the position and perspective of health insurance experts. Private providers may not be inclined to participate because the reimbursement would be low.
3. Funding and Compliance. Who will be funding the oversight for compliance of these proposed regulations? Increased manpower and resources will be needed which will lead to higher taxpayer burden.

Respectfully Submitted: Jamie Detwiler, President, Hawaii Federation of Republican Women

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:15:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, we need your support of this bill. I feel that people should have the ability to decide if and when they have children based on what's best for them and the circumstances of their families. Hawaii must continue its leadership of people to access the health care they need!

Mahalo,

Rodger Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:26:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN in the state of Hawaii and I am in strong support of this bill.

Too many of my patients are being affected by co-pays and unable to access the reproductive health care they need.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:41:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1966

And all legislation that puts people before profit.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:48:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:55:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Scott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill for a number of reasons, but mainly because I oppose abortion, and consider it to be one of the largest violation of Han rights, mainly the roght to life.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:02:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Small	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As I understand it, this bill would require businesses to have insurance that covers certain medical procedures at 100%. This would make insurance more expensive, and require business owners who have personal beliefs that some of these services are not good, to pay for them. This also says that the contraceptives do not have to be used by the patient or for it's intended purpose. What a waste of resources. Insurance is already crazy expensive. My husband has a good paying job and we already pay quite a bit each month out of pocket for our insurance. This bill will just increase insurance costs more in an already difficult economy.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:26:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gemma H.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1966 is a very important piece of legislator that gives everyone autonomy over their reproductive and sexual health without the financial barriers that are often in the way for many Hawaii families, specifically the out-of-pocket costs that are often associated with voluntary medical procedures such as abortions and vasectomies.

To: House Committee on Health
From: LeighAnn Frattarelli, MD, MPH, FACOG
Re: HB 1966
Position: Strongly Support
January 30, 2024

I have been a gynecologist in the state of Hawaii for over twenty years. We need this bill to pass. Too many of my patients are being affected by co-pays and “grandfathered” insurance policies that don’t fall under the Affordable Healthcare Act leaving them having to compromise their healthcare or spend beyond their means for something that is a fundamental right! Plus, the federal political climate makes it a strong possibility that federal protections for preventive care will not continue to exist, leaving even more patients unable to access the reproductive health care they need.

HB1966, the Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) is probably the most important bill coming before the legislature this year. It is timely and well written and provides the women of Hawaii the healthcare they need and deserve. I strong support HB1966
LeighAnn Frattarelli, MD, MPH

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:12:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Chen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN in the state of Hawai'i, and I urge you to pass HB1966. Having worked in other states in the country where insurance coverage for reproductive healthcare is more limited, I have had first-hand experience of what can happen to women and their families when they are absolutely crushed under the financial burden of the healthcare they need. I have also seen it in our community here on Oahu and the Big Island, where women will choose a lower quality test for cervical cancer screening or suffer side effects of birth control pills, because they can't afford the cost of better testing or an IUD. No one should have to make those choices. The people of Hawai'i should be able to access the high-quality reproductive health care they deserve, regardless of their job or economic status. Thus, I urge you to pass HB1966.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:22:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** this Bill.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:40:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Rault	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN in Hawaii. I fully support and urge you to support and pass HB1966. As we have seen throughout medicine's history, with the the development of technology, the best methods for addressing health are proactive rather than reactive. This means preventing disease rather than treating disease. However, in many cases, we do not yet have this ability. Simple things like pap smear with HPV co tests, allow us to screen patients for abnormal cervical cells. Our goal is not to detect cervical cancer, our goal is to identify precursors to cancer. we want to treat and be ahead of the curve, before the diagnosis of cancer. By supporting this bill, and expanding access to reproductive and sexual health care, we can ensure that all people have access to appropriate healthcare at no cost to themselves. This allows them to get the appropriate screening and treatment they need to have a safe and healthy life. This bill will also begin to address health care inequity. If the test is not covered, individual who do not have the funds cannot afford to cover the cost of the screening test. All people shoudl have the same access to preventive care.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:58:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ralph Sherman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support any of the bills that are written by Democrats because all of you are globalists. You are a virus to humanity. Stop pushing your sick perversions on our children. Gender affirming care is an oxymoron. Mutilated children are not getting care, but rather being victimized by the medical malpractice industry.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:16:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:18:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Stongly Oppose

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:18:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kay Aina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee members,

This bill as written may have commendable intent, but needs to provide protections for those organizations and individuals who disagree with some of its provisions. Please amend this measure accordingly or defer it. Thank you.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:19:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deb Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RHEA is a crucial bill that requires insurers to cover a wide range of sexual and reproductive health services with no out-of-pocket cost, including abortion, vasectomy, treatment to avoid HIV, and other critical preventive care services.

Please support this crucial bill.

Deborah Nehmad

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:44:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB1966 so all people in Hawaii would have access to the full range of preventive sexual and reproductive health services at no cost. With abortion no longer protected at a federal level and potential attacks on ACA attacks, we should pass this measure to safeguard access to women's health care and reproductive choice. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:20:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaci Kassmeier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Safe and easy access to reproductive healthcare is critical to the health of any community. During one of the most difficult and emotional times in a woman's life, they should be met with support and medical care - not traumatized with legal restrictions and forced pregnancies. Forced pregnancies not only impact the woman, but her entire family as well -- financially, emotionally, logistically.

This country was founded on the ideal and principle that we are all equal. However imperfectly we've administered that, the constitution demands that women are given equal rights over themselves and their lives as men. We demand the same autonomy, freedom to pursue our goals and dreams, and ability to control our own bodies.

Please support the rights of the women of Hawaii, myself included, and pass HB 1966.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:14:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MarilynSeely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this issue. This is a defining issue for women in Hawaii and the state can be proud of taking this into consideration and passing the bill.

Mahalo Marilyn

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:23:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janell Beattie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this absurd bill.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:30:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Newman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose this bill because in my opinion, no matter how you phrase it or what approach you take, abortion is murder of an unborn human being. Feminists should be strongly opposing the murder of unborn females. Tax payers should strongly oppose the murder of future humans who can contribute to society. Men should be strong and strongly oppose the murder of innocent babies who cannot defend or fight for themselves. Sexually active individuals should be held accountable to their decisions to be sexually active and that while exercising their freedoms, they don't have the right to take away the freedom of another human being to live and be a gift to this world. EVERYONE in opposition to babies being born should be held accountable to the fact that other options exist OTHER THAN murdering an innocent baby. TWO options that already exist are called "contraceptives ," and "adoption."

Thank you for your consideration,

C. Newman

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:42:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RHEA will give more people in Hawai'i the ability to protect their health and decide if and when they have children based on what's best for them and their family's circumstances.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:08:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Committee,

I am writing in strong favor of passing HB 1966. This is an important bill which would ensure health care access to all.

SB 1966 would give more people in Hawai'i the ability to protect their health and decide if and when they have children based on what's best for them and their family's circumstances.

It is vital that Hawai'i continue it's leadership in promoting all people's ability to access the health care they need and deserve, no matter what happens at the federal level.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita, lifelong resident

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:40:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Adair-Leland Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support RHEA that will give more people in Hawai'i the ability to protect their health and decide if and when they have children based on what's best for them and their family's circumstances. Hawai'i must continue its leadership in promoting all people's ability to access the health care they need and deserve, no matter what happens at the federal level.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:40:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angel M. Willey, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN in the state of Hawaii. We desperately need this bill to pass. Too many of my patients are affected by co-pays and are unable to access the reproductive health care they need.

With aloha,

Dr. Angel Willey

OBGYN

ACOG Hawaii Chair

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:57:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ricardo Molero Bravo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OB/GYN in the state of Hawaii, and we need this bill to pass. Too many of my patients are being affected by co-pays and unable to access the reproductive health care they need.

Ricardo A. Molero Bravo, MD

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:05:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avery Olson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OB/GYN in the state of Hawaii, and we need this bill to pass. Too many of my patients are being affected by co-pays and unable to access the reproductive health care they need. The standard of care for preventative health services, like screening for cervical cancer, cannot be completed for our patients as they cannot afford it. This leads to a higher cost burden for society as it could lead to increased treatment number and severity down the road (often more costly solutions).

Please support HB1966! Mahalo.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:21:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Akemi Hiatt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Reproductive health care including abortion should be covered by insurance policies as accessing healthcare is a human right. Affecting women - but also I would argue every single person throughout their lifetime - this is not some "niche" policy that we can let patients take on on their own. It is a sizeable cost, an ongoing burden, and ultimately an unfair system in which we currently ask women and many others to take on medical costs which can and do impact their ability to access timely and effective healthcare.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:56:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bliss Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an OBGYN in Hawaii, I know that health care is out of reach for to many patients because of the expense of copays. This bill will help my patients access necessary reproductive health care.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:29:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Korynn Grenert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) will empower individuals in Hawai‘i to safeguard their health and make informed decisions about family planning. RHEA is a crucial step towards ensuring that everyone in the state has the autonomy to determine when and if they have children, aligning with their unique circumstances and financial abilities. Our state must ensure the right of all individuals to access the healthcare they need and deserve.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:36:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in OPPOSITION

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:52:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Yang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm an OBGYN physician in Hawai'i and I support this bill. Too many of my patients have missed care or have limited access to standard of care because of co-pays.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:06:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1966

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:32:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Marzo	Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians, Legislative Committee	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are practicing family physicians in the State of Hawaii submitting testimony in support of HB1966. This bill would require insurance companies to cover essential sexual and reproductive health services including all contraceptives, STI testing, and abortion care without cost-sharing to the insured individual. This is consistent with current no-cost coverage for preventative health screenings as mandated by the Affordable Care Act. Many of these essential services are forgone by marginalized and underserved groups including minors and those with limited income due to cost or confidentiality concerns. We have cared for minors that decline testing for sexually transmitted infections or contraception because they cannot afford it or are not comfortable talking to their parents. This often leads to complicated health consequences and undesired pregnancies. Covering these essential sexual and reproductive preventative services decreases overall health care costs, as it allows individuals to plan families in their own time and have healthier pregnancies when they are ready. This bill would improve access to a breadth of preventative services, and would be a significant step toward promoting health for all people in Hawai'i.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:42:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Asia Ayabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OB/GYN in the state of Hawaii, and we need this bill to pass. Too many of my patients are being affected by co-pays and unable to access the reproductive health care they need.

HB-1966

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:17:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 1/31/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Kaneko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose