JOSH GREEN, M.D.

GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀĪNA O KA MOKU'ĀĪNA 'O HAWAI'I



KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO P. O. Box 3378 Honolulu, HI 96801-3378

doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2436 RELATING TO MEDICAL CARE FOR MINORS

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
Hearing: Wednesday, January 31, 2024; 8:30 AM; Conference Room 329

- 1 Fiscal Implications: None.
- 2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") supports this measure.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing Division
- 4 (CDPHND) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.
- 5 The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB 2436 which would
- 6 permit minors to consent to medical care related to the prevention of sexually transmitted
- 7 infections, including HIV, and would update archaic terminology in §577A, HRS, by replacing
- 8 "venereal disease" with "sexually transmitted infection." This measure would permit licensed
- 9 health care providers to submit insurance claims for minors who initiate medical care and
- services pursuant this section, including minors covered by a parent or guardian's health
- insurance, and would protect the minor-initiated medical care and services from disclose to the
- minor's parent or guardian.
- 13 Current statutes allow people under 18 to consent to certain types of medical care including
- the treatment of sexually transmitted infections such as HIV. However, the current statutes do
- not permit a minor to consent to medical care related to the **prevention** of sexually transmitted
- infections such as HIV. This measure would resolve this critical gap in minor's access to medical

- care. Medications taken by an HIV-uninfected individual to prevent acquisition of HIV are safe
- 2 and highly effective and were approved for use in minors in 2018.
- 3 The department strongly supports this bill as it could help prevent HIV in minors. Permitting
- 4 minors who cannot or will not seek the consent of their parents or guardians to consent to HIV
- 5 medical care is essential to the health of the minor and a valuable step in ending the HIV
- 6 epidemic in Hawai'i.
- 7 **Offered Amendments:** None
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:29:58 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 support this bill as an OBGYN in Hawai'i

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:59:03 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 2436.

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



To: Committee on Health and Homelessness

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 8:30 AM

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2436

From: Heather Lusk, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the committee:

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) strongly supports HB 2436 which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications). HB 2436 would also allow minors to consent to Monkepox vaccines and other prevention efforts related to sexually transmitted infrections instead of having to wait until they contract the infection and then be allowed to treat it.

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHHRC is one of the largest provoders of PrEP is the islands and we have had to turn away minors seeking this important life-saving medication. Thank you for considering this life-saving measure by ensuring 14-17 year olds can not only give consent as HB 2436 describes, but also maintains their confidentiality when it is minor-initiatied medical care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center



KUMUKAHI

HEALTH + WELLNESS

Board of Directors

January 29, 2024

Larry McGoff

President

To: Committee on Health and Homelessness

Molly O'Quinn Vice President

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2436

Keith Brown *Treasurer*

From: Peter Tui Silva, CEO, Kumukahi Health + Wellness

Jennifer Rabideau Secretary

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the committee:

Jenifer Aaronson, MD

Lee-Ann Heely, M. Ed., DM

Martin Rathbun

Nicholas VandenRaadt, RN BSN

I am writing to you as the CEO of Kumukahi Health + Wellness, and we are in strong support of HB 2436, which would give 14-17 year old persons the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications call Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. PrEP has been shown to be 99% effective in reducing HIV transmission when taken as prescribed.

Chief Executive Officer

Peter Tuiolosega Silva

In 2021, Hawai'i Island had the largest incidences of HIV in the State. As the only sexual health clinic on the island of Hawai'i, we see many teens and young adults who are sexually active in outreach, but not accessing critical medical interventions such as these because they are afraid of being on their parents'/guardian's insurance. This is a very rural area, and many people are still living "in the closet" about their gender identity and sexual preferences. Research has shown these factors to lead to higher risks of sexually transmitted infections and suicide.

Kumukahi's connects our Hawai'i Island at risk communities with health equity and wellness through collaboration, advocacy and education—empowering people to live longer, happier and healthier lives. This measure can help save lives and give our youth the empowerment to make safer choices and receive confidential medical care.

East Hawai'i Office

101 Aupuni Street, PH 1014C Hilo, HI 96720 Phone: 808-982-8800 Fax: 808-982-8802

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

West Hawai'i Office

74-5620 Palani Road Suite 101 Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Phone: 808-331-8177 Fax: 808-331-0762 Peter T. Silva

CEO

Kumukahi Health + Wellness

kumukahiHEALTH.org

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:53:45 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 HB2436. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:13:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Ruddick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly support HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year old's the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:25:52 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

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:48:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Ayers	Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly supports HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases BUT not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (Ironically, we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent. As a result, some may feel that they have to decide between sharing intmate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatenting disease. Making this available to our youth, ages 14-17, makes good, simple sense.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:21:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Soon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness:

Mahalo for your consideration of HB2436 and the opportunity to share my **strong support** for this measure. This bill seeks to ensure that minors (14-17) are able to make the important decision to use PrEP. In Hawai'i, we recognize the importance of minors being able to directly engage in their healthcare decisions. It is in alignment with minor rights already recognized to make health decisions regarding treatment that they may also make such decisions regarding prevention.

Supporting minor consent to PrEP also critically bolsters public health efforts. With 21% of new HIV diagnoses occurring among youth aged 13-24 in the U.S., access to PrEP is crucial. Empowering minors fosters trust in healthcare and destignatizes HIV discussions. It ensures informed decision-making, vital for combating the epidemic.

Living in a time where PrEP is available, we should be working to ensure its access. By integrating PrEP access with comprehensive sexual education, we promote inclusivity and reduce transmission rates. This committee also has important kuleana for issues immpacting our homeless community, including the hundreds of unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness across Hawai'i, who need to be able to meet their own healthcare needs.

Minors have the capacity to make decisions regarding prevention, just as they would for treatment. Enabling minors to consent to PrEP not only safeguards their health but also strengthens our collective efforts to create healthier communities and curb the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Mahalo for your consideration of support of a healthier Hawai'i. Me ka 'oia'i'o, Rebecca Soon

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:29:19 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jiwoo Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly supports HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intmate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatenting disease.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:33:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanna Zoey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly support HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. -breanna zoey (she/they)

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:40:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly support HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent — which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Sincerely, Lisa Lee, PsyD

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:40:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paige Harakuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly supports HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intmate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatenting disease.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy. One of the largest pillars of quality healthcare is an emphasis on preventative care, an aspect of medicine that is often overlooked in favor of treatment and maintenance of already existing diagnoses. A true commitment towards prioritizing the care of our youth would be reflected in passing this bill, as it demonstrates an emphasis of comprehensive and patient-centered care that can prevent more devastating consequences down the line.

I urge you to consider passing this bill for the health of our young constituents. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:48:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly support HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

As the APRN at the Hale Ho'omalu Juvenile Detention Facility, I have witnessed first hand how many youths come into the facility with STI's. We can arrange for youths to be tested for HIV and refer them to treatment if needed, but wouldn't it be so much better to provide them with PROTECTION from HIV? These youths and all youths in Hawaii deserve access to medications to protect themselves from HIV infection. Many people may say that providing this medication would encourage youths to have sex. The truth of the matter is THEY ARE ALREADY HAVING SEX! Let's provide them every tool available to support themselves and be healthy. It's a no-brainer that youths need this protection and not allowing them access to it w/o parental consent is just not right. Please Pass HB 2436.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Linda Kim, APRN

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:58:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislature Representative,

I am writing this testimony in opposition of HB2436. I believe that parents of children requesting this type of treatment or services should be included in the decision process. Children do not have a brain fully developed to make decisions of this nature. The human brain is not fully developed until age 25. As such a 14 year old to age 18 should have a parents consent before participating in any treatment of this nature.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:02:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RUSSELL ABORDO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly support HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intmate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatenting disease.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:03:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerestin Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly support HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:12:30 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 HB2436 that allows a minor to receive care without the consent of a guardian. It is not the place of government to exclude parents/guardians from life altering decisions. No minor should be making choices of such importance without the involvement of the adults who are responsible for their well-being. This puts them at risk and it can also lead to covering up of sexual abuse since many children are afraid or ashamed to report such things. This is not wise or ethical and it needs to be stopped. We need to protect our keiki and be a safe place for them, not let them make adult decisions without the people closest to them knowing about it. Health care providers should never take the place of parents, nor should the government.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Cheng

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

I am a community health worker in the field of sexual health. I provide HIV and STI testing, as well as assist patients with getting on PrEP, a medication that prevents HIV infection.

I **strongly support HB 2436**, a bill to increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. HB 2436 would give 14–17-year-olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Preexposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. Currently the HRS for minor consent allows minors to consent to the treatment of sexually related diseases, including HIV, but does not allow access to prevention measures such as PrEP. It's unfortunate that we are forced to wait until a minor contracts HIV before we can help them, rather than provide important medication that can prevent HIV infection in the first place.

This life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, has been a gift in the fight against new HIV infections but those 14-17 cannot access it without parental consent. For too many people that means that an individual must decide between sharing intimate information that could negatively impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease. For too many, that means they will go without.

As a gay man, I can personally attest that this medication has been life changing, and life saving for many people in my life. I wish PrEP had been around when I was a teenager, but even if it had, my parents would never have consented for me to have it. They would have viewed the possibility of contracting HIV as God's punishment. There are too many people today living with family that hold to such a view. And they need your help.

Please pass HB 2436, it will save lives.

Thank you for letting me testify, Michael Paul

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:14:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Rosenbach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly support HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (which means that medical providers can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

To: Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Hearing Date/Time: Friday February 11, 2024/2:00 pm

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB2436

Dear Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, members of the committee:

As a physician and infectious disease epidemiologist who focuses on sexually transmitted infections, I urge you to pass HB1675.

Primary prevention (preventing an infection or disease from occurring), when possible, has consistently been shown to be the best prevention strategy.

According to the CDC, HIV preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) reduces the risk of contracting HIV from sex by 99%!

Unfortunately, new HIV cases continue to occur despite the availability of PrEP, as availability does not equal easy accessibility.

Approximately 1/5 of all new cases in the US are in the age range of 13-24 years among persons who contracted their infection through male to male sex.

Sexual behaviors are private, and accessing effective STI and HIV prevention is challenging especially for young people who most often need to rely on parental insurance to cover health related activities.

This bill would allow a minor to access highly effective HIV prevention services without the need for parental notification.

It would be optimal if every family had loving, accepting, and caring relations, and children could openly discuss their sexual activities with their parents, but unfortunately, this is not reality.

Passage of HB2436 would remove a barrier to accessing a prevention strategy that has proven to be lifesaving.

Thank you in advance for your positive consideration.

Al Katz, MD, MPH

Sexual behavior

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:57:07 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 Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and HTH Committee,

As a public health professional, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2436**, which would increase access to recommended medical care and life-saving medications for minors 14-17.

HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

Mahalo for your consideration of this important health issue.

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:31:55 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 HB2436.

Parents have every right to know what is happening with their Keiki medically.

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:40:04 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 2436.

Thank you,

Teri Savaiinaea

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:49:55 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.

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:01:21 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 because the state has no right to offer these kinds medical services to a 14 year old child without the consent of their parents. Furthermore, it is a gross abuse of power to withhold this information from a child's parents. It is unethical to circumvent parental rights, and treat a 14 year old as an adult.

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:13:59 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 a Hawaii voter and mother of 3 teenagers I strongly oppose this bill. My teenagers have to have my permission to get a library card but this bill is saying that they are qualified to make all of their own medical decisions without my consent. My children are not allowed to get a tatoo until they are 18 but this bill would let them do irreversable medical procedures starting at 14. The logic of this is lacking. I already had issues with 2 of my children being on thier own medical accounts with Kaiser. It has made it incresingly difficult for me to make them appointments when they are sick and can't remember their passwords. Less information for parents is not helpful in fostering good healthy communication with their children.

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:20:16 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Cortes-Swanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly support HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intmate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatenting disease.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you,

Adam C.S.

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:17:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Carino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly supports HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatenting disease.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

<u>HB-2436</u> Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:22:55 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.

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:01:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shandhini Raidoo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist specializing in care for pediatric and adolescent patients, and I am submitting this testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 2436. Confidentiality in access to sexual and reproductive health care is critical to ensuring the health and wellbeing of young people in our state. This bill would ensure that our young people can get the care that they need and that their privacy in medical care is upheld by the providers and insurers caring for them.

Mahalo,

Shandhini Raidoo, MD, MPH

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:05:06 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 oppose any bill submitted by a Democrat because they are globalists who want to oppress us with medical malpractice like COVID and the poisonous vaccines. Gender affirming care for children is nothing more than child abuse. Mutilation is not care, but rather malpractice. That is why you have to change the law to make Mutilation legal.

<u>HB-2436</u> Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:12:11 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:

I oppose this measure, please defer it. Thank you.

<u>HB-2436</u> Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:14:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kourtney Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2436.

<u>HB-2436</u> Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:16:43 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

<u>HB-2436</u> Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:18:25 AM

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

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

Comments:

I Stongly Oppose

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:00:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Ogata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly supports HB 2436** which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intmate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatenting disease.

As a gay man that is nearing their 40s, I WISH that I could have been afforded the resources we have today. Exploring my sexuality in my teens, I was traumatized by the thought that I was going to contract HIV and die. The fact that today's youth can now safely explore their sexuality without fear of HIV is remarkable.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Andrew Ogata

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:13:52 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose as written. I strongly urge that the language be changed to reflect that the parent and/or guardian "shall" be notified.

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:28:00 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:

Please vote NO to HB2436. Protect our keiki from decisions they will immensely regret.

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:32:12 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anita Cheung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I **strongly support** HB 2436, which would increase access to medical care for minors 14-17. Specifically, HB 2436 would give 14-17-year-olds the ability to consent to life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but not have access to prevention measures such as PrEP (ironically, we can treat them once they get HIV but not provide proven prevention medications).

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access it without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease.

For the past year and a half, I have participated in the Hawai`i Youth Program for Excellence (HYPE) Program, where medical students mentor children from homeless communities. I feel that it is especially important for teens, 14-17-year-olds, from these underserved and marginalized populations to be able to consent to life-saving HIV prevention medications as they have an increased risk of developing HIV.

Please pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:55:39 AM

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

Subm	itted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. N	ewman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose this Bill because Children should not be allowed to make major life decisions without the guidance and care of loving parents and adults. Please deal with the REAL and BIGGER issues behind this rather than allowing more injustices. Do not take away parents rights to counsel and guide their children. And if such parental figures are not in the child's life, they should be allowed to talk first with their choice of counselors and not be pressured into making irreversible, life altering decisions without knowing what all their options are and who wil be there to support them in life. Further, this does not help with cases of sex trafficked children who are being abused by this set up. Please oppose this bill, and any others that are similar.

Thank you for your consideration,

C. Newman

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:21:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lila Marantz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop attempting to parent our children without our consent.

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:35:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of HB2436 related to the ability for minors to access medical care. This is an important step in providing a minor with tools that could affect their quality of life and ability to become healthy adults.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2436.

Sincerely,

Cyd L. Hoffeld

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

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

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

Comments:

I support this bill as does ACOG Hawaii.

Thank you,

Angel Willey MD (ACOG Hawaii Section Chair)

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

CLIFFORD CHANG, MPH

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Email: <cliffordchangconsulting@yahoo.com>

Date: January 30, 2024

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness

Re: Strong support for HB 2436 Relating to Medical Care for Minors

My name is Clifford Chang, testifying today both as the principal in my public health consulting business, Clifford Chang Consulting, and as a private individual with over 40 years of public health experience. I have been professionally involved in HIV, STD and AIDS prevention for over 11 years, including at the State Diamond Head HIV and STD Clinic, and have continued my direct involvement on a voluntary basis for over 27 years.

I am testifying in **strong support, for HB 2436**, which authorizes minors who are 14 years or older to consent to medical care for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and family planning services, including the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and requires confidentiality policies and practices for insurers and providers. HB 2436 increases access to medical care for minors 14-17, and specifically would give 14-17 year olds the ability to consent for life-saving HIV prevention medications called Pre-exposure Prophylaxis or PrEP.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommend PrEP as one of the most effective biomedical interventions to prevent HIV. The current HRS for minor consent does allow minors to consent to treatment of HIV and other sexually-related diseases but does not allow them to access prevention measures such as PrEP. The irony is that as a minor, they can be treated once they become infected with HIV or another STD, but currently they are not able to access proven prevention medications. HB 2436 corrects this deficiency.

We now have this life-saving medication, which is covered by insurance, but those 14-17 cannot access without parental consent – which may mean that someone has to decide between sharing intimate information that could impact their familial relationship or getting access to a drug that could prevent a life-threatening disease. Minors have the capacity to make decisions regarding prevention, just as they would for treatment. Enabling minors to consent to PrEP not only safeguards their health but also strengthens our collective efforts to create healthier communities and curb the spread of HIV/AIDS.

This committee also has important responsibility for issues impacting our homeless community, including the hundreds of unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness across Hawai'i, who need to be able to meet their own healthcare needs.

I ask and urge you to support and pass pass HB 2436 so that our young people have every tool available to support themselves and be healthy. Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha.

Clifford Chang

Mulls

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:36:00 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Healthcare decisions by minors should include parental notification.
- How can parents best help their child heal from sexually transmitted diseases if they are kept out of the process?
- Shouldn't we be helping parents have discussions with their children to ensure they have the best care?
- Laws should not be created that establish a wedge between a parent and their child.

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:40:00 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

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:54:13 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO on HB2436. Laws that divide parents and children from each other should not be passed. Will the state or physicain be liable should anything happen to the minor who pursues a course of action where the parent has not been notified of the minor's treatment?

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:03:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a family health care primary care provider who works with teenagers I can attest to the fact that this type of bill is vitally important. Allowing teenagers to seek evaluation, information and treatment facilitates responsible sexual behavior. Furthermore, from a public health perspective, it reduces the risk of long-term consequences of untreated infections as well as spread of infections including to newborns.

Please support this important bill.

.Thank you for your attention.

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:29:09 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	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

HB2436 RELATING TO MEDICAL CARE FOR MINORS

Tuesday, January 31, 2024, at 8:30 AM

State Capitol Conference Room 325 via Videoconference

Honorable Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Federation of Republican Women OPPOSES HB2436 for the following reasons:

- 1. Healthcare decisions by minors should include parental notification.
- 2. How can parents best help their child heal from sexually transmitted diseases if they are kept out of the process?
- 3. Shouldn't we be helping parents have discussions with their children to ensure they have the best care?
- 4. Laws should not be created that establish a wedge between a parent and their child.

Hawaii law already allows a minor to access "reproductive health care" without parental consent. SB1 from last year codified it.

This bill, if passed, will add text that expands those services to include those "infected with, at risk of exposure to, or to have been exposed to, a sexually transmitted infection."

Please vote NO on HB2436.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Detwiler, President

Hawaii Federation of Republican Women

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:38:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the passing of this bill!

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:58:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne T Jim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Committee Members:

I am opposed this bill as it continues to make minors adults. Parents need to be respected as responsible for their children. They need to know what their children are doing to be able to guide them and care for them. The government is not a replacement for parents. Please respect a parents right to know about the health of their child, discuss options and guide them.

Some of you must be parents of minors and how would you feel if your child has a health issue and someone in the government instructed them what to do without your knowledge or consent? I don't think you would be happy. Do not think this is for other people it may happen in your family.

Aloha is Ohana and family need to know and be in relation with one another. The government is to support the Ohana - that would be Aloha.

Again, I am OPPOSED to this bill.

Mahalo for reading this and taking this into serious consideration.

Aloha ke Akua, Roxanne Jim

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:18:53 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 HB 2436

So disturbing and wrong to authorize minors who are 14 years or older to consent to medical care for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy and family planning services, including the prevention of sexually transmitted infections with no parental consent!

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:21:48 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.

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:31:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tsu Osato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is well known that the rational part of a teen's brain isn't fully developed yet.

A minor at 14 years old should not be making life altering decisions Isucj as the ones proposed in this bill without parental consent!

It is unconscionable of the parties proposing this bill to even think of eliminating parents in the decision making process! A major life altering medical procedure performed on a minor that is all orchestrated by parties and strangers other than parents. This is deceitful and outrageous!

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:11:54 AM

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 Hawaii and I support this bill.