Testimony to the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Monday, February 10, 2014 at 5:00 P.M.  
State Capitol - Conference Room 325

RE: HOUSE BILL 2355, HD1 RELATING TO IN VITRO FERTILIZATION INSURANCE COVERAGE

Chair McKelvey and Vice Chair Kawakami, and members of the committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") opposes HB 2355 Relating to In Vitro Fertilization Insurance Coverage.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

While we understand that persons may need additional health care services, we do not believe that business should be the group responsible for paying for this mandated benefit. Ninety percent of the cost of an employee’s health care premium is paid for by the employer. Most employers would be unable to pass this new cost onto the consumer. Please keep in mind that this would be in addition to the already annual increase in health care premiums of 7-10% each year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.