

July 13, 2005

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 003
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 1304 HD1 SD2 CD1

On July 12, 2005, House Bill No. 1304, entitled "Relating to Health" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

This measure sets up a task force to consider possible legislation addressing the issue of health care for Hawaii's residents. This is an area that has been examined at length by numerous task forces and organizations.

We are concerned that this legislation mandates the use of one particular organization that reflects a point of view on the health insurance issue, but does not necessarily reflect the full spectrum of thinking on this matter.

Further, we are concerned that the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services are not mentioned in the bill or given roles on the task force. In particular, it should be pointed out that the Department of Human Services has over the past year enrolled thousands of eligible children in the State's health care program by making the enrollment process easier.

Additionally, expending another \$200,000 on studies will not necessarily result in any additional residents receiving quality health care coverage.

While we remain concerned about the composition of the task force and the repetitive nature of its work, we remain hopeful that it will generate useful, practical suggestions for the Executive Branch and Legislature to consider next year.

Therefore, I allowed House Bill No. 1304 HD1 SD2 CD1 to become law as Act 223 effective July 12, 2005 without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE