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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH
AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Monday, February 23, 2009
3:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 166 – RELATING TO INSURANCE.

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE AND ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIRS, AND
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is J.P. Schmidt, State Insurance Commissioner ("Commissioner"),
testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
("Department"). The Department takes no position on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to mandate parity of coverage for oral and intravenous
chemotherapy. We have no doctors on staff, so we cannot express an opinion on the
medical merits of the bill. In addition, any mandated benefit helps some people, but
also imposes increased cost burdens on the employers and individuals that pay the
premiums.

We note that mandated benefits are required by law to undergo a review by the
Legislative Auditor.

We thank this Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.