

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2086

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2052  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, to which was referred S.B. No. 2052 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require that hearing aid devices be included in mandatory insurance coverage for Medicaid and private health insurance.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Hawaii Medical Association. Oral testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Department of Human Services, the Disability and Communication Access Board, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, the Hawaii Center for Independent Living, and two private individuals. Testimony in opposition to this measure was submitted by the Hawaii Association of Health Plans. Comments on the measure were submitted by Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA).

Your Committee finds that this measure would increase the number of available health care options for the hearing impaired in the community. Your Committee further finds that according to the Department of Human Services, Medicaid already covers hearing aids, and that according to HMSA, its Preferred Provider and Health Plan Hawaii Plus plans already cover hearing aids.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

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- (1) Removing Medicaid from the mandate; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services and Public Housing that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2052, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2052, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Human Services and  
Public Housing,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Human Services and Public Housing**  
**HSP**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 2052</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HSP, CPH</i>	Date: <i>1/31/08</i>
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The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
 If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312    
  Pass, with amendments 2311    
 Hold 2310    
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les (VC)	✓			
HOOSER, Gary L.				✓
SAKAMOTO, Norman	✓			
HEMMINGS, Fred			✓	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

Recommendation:    
 Adopted    
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]*

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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes