

HB1047

HD3

Measure Title:
RELATING TO MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS.

Report Title:
Marriage and Family Therapists; Reimbursable Services

Description:
Includes marriage and family therapy among the mental illness, alcohol and drug dependence benefits required within the hospital and medical coverage offered under accident and sickness insurance policies and similar insurance products.

Introducer(s):
CARROLL, HANOHANO, SONSON, Brower, Lee, Takumi, Tokioka, Yamashita

Current Referral:
HTH, CPH



LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. Box 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
www.hawaii.gov/dcca

LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH
DIRECTOR

RONALD BOYER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2008

Monday, March 17, 2008
1:00 p.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1047, HD 3 – RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE.

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

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, which adds marriage and family therapists to the existing mental health and substance abuse treatment mandated benefit.

The Department does not have the medical expertise necessary to express an informed opinion on the merits of this bill. However, while mandated benefits help some patients, they also increase premiums for consumers. It should also be noted that prior to enacting mandatory health insurance coverage, there must be a review by the Legislative Auditor pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes section 23-51. It is not clear whether this applies to amendments to existing mandated benefits, but that issue should be researched.

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

HMSA



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March 17, 2008

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health

Re: HB 1047 HD3 – Relating to Marriage and Family Therapists

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on HB 1047 HD3 which would include Marriage and Family Therapists as recognized providers under HRS 431M.

HMSA believes that since legislation to accomplish this was passed into law during the 2007 legislative session, HB 1047 HD3 is unnecessary. Act 38 was passed into law and placed Marriage and Family Therapists in the definition of providers required to be recognized by health plans under HRS 431M.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1047 HD3.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations