

SCR 39

Measure Title:

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL
EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR
ALL FORMS OF CANCER TREATMENT.

Report Title:

Insurance; Cancer Treatment; Mandatory Coverage

Description:

Introducer(s):

CHUN OAKLAND

Current Referral:

HTH/CPH, WAM

HMSA



Blue Cross
Blue Shield
of Hawaii

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March 24, 2008

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable Russell Kokubun, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing

Re: SCR 39 - Requesting the Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of requiring health insurers to provide coverage for all forms of cancer treatment.

Dear Chair Ige, Chair Kokubun and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SCR 39 which requests the Auditor assess the social and financial impacts of mandating health plans provide coverage for all forms of cancer treatments. HMSA has concerns with this measure in its current form.

Currently HMSA's health plans provide coverage to our members who are in need of cancer treatments. In addition to this, HMSA also has a process in effect to examine the efficacy of any treatments which could be considered experimental or investigational. We believe that the language contained in SB 2131, the accompanying bill relating to this resolution, would remove any ability a health plan has to ensure that coverage for cancer treatments are effective and safe for our members.

We would also like to point out that a report recently issued by the Auditor cited the fact that the bill accompanying the study request did not include the minimum information required by the Auditor. Due to the absence of this information, the Auditor cited "a lack of adequate information in the proposed bill as required by Section 23-51, HRS." The Auditor went on to state that because of this an assessment was "not feasible." We believe that the current version of SB 2131 could end up posing the same problems to the Auditor due to its extremely broad language.

Due to the broadness of the language in this resolution we would respectfully request the Committees hold this measure or at least amend it to give the Auditor more direction and focus for this study.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Assistant Vice President
Government Relations