

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

409

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2009

RE: S.B. No. 192
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 192
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEARING AID DEVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to promote full inclusion,
independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with
hearing disabilities by requiring private health insurers to cover
the cost of hearing aids.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability
and Communication Access Board, Kaiser Permanente, American Family
Life Assurance Company of Columbus, and Hawaii Centers for
Independent Living. Testimony in opposition to this measure was
submitted by Hawaii Association of Health Plans. Comments on this
measure were submitted by the Department of Commerce and Consumer
Affairs and Hawaii Medical Service Association.

Written testimony presented to the Committee may be reviewed
on the Legislature's website.

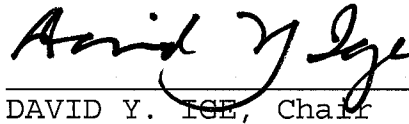
Your Committee finds that hearing aid devices are necessary
for the health and safety of individuals with hearing disabilities
who require them for daily living. Your Committee further finds
that the actual benefit provided for hearing aid devices should be
particularized in insurance policies.



Your Committee has amended this measure by excluding limited benefit policies such as accident-only, specified disease, hospital indemnity, medicare supplement, long-term care, dental, vision, or other limited benefit health insurance policies from the requirement that private health insurers cover the cost of hearing aids.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 192, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 192, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Health
HTH

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 192	HTH CPN	2/11/9

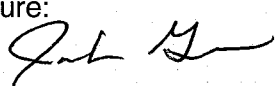
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

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

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	✓			
GREEN, M.D., Josh (VC)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H.	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.				✓
HEMMINGS, Fred	✓			
TOTAL	5	0	0	1

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes