

SCR3

Measure Title:	REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO OFFER COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS.
Report Title:	Health Insurance; Hearing Aids
Description:	
Companion:	
Package:	Deaf and Blind
Current Referral:	HMS/CPN, WAM
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, FUKUNAGA, IGE, TOKUDA



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 10, 2011

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senate Concurrent Resolution 3 – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Impacts of Requiring Health Insurers to Offer Coverage for Hearing Aids

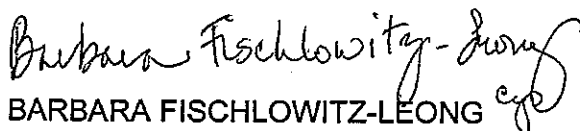
The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 3 Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Impacts of Requiring Health Insurers to Offer Coverage for Hearing Aids. We are aware that it is a requirement for a study to be conducted related to the social and financial effects of requiring health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids per sections 21-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes. DCAB supports this study in order to obtain necessary information to amend the statute in an informed and appropriate manner to mandate increased coverage for hearing aids.

Hearing is essential to most individuals in their daily lives (waking up to an alarm clock, listening for our children or the radio, or talking on the phone). It allows us to be connected to others in our environment. A hearing aid enhances the person's ability to interact independently in the community, but the cost is prohibitive to the average adult. Being able to have some of the cost covered by a health plan would enable some individuals to be able to obtain a hearing aid without feeling guilty that the money is better spent on some other necessity. An individual should not have to choose between hearing or not hearing when a hearing aid is available as a viable option.

DCAB proposes an amendment to page 2, line 32. Please replace "suffering from hearing loss to lead full lives" with "who are deaf or hard of hearing to function effectively in the community." Hearing loss does not normally result in physical pain or suffering. By amending the language, the Legislature will model "people-first" language acknowledging the person first and then the physical condition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee



FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



Assistive Technology
Resource Centers of Hawaii

Linking, Educating, Empowering People with Assistive Technology

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Charlotte Townsend

Charles Vasy

President/

Executive Director

Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong

March 8, 2011

atrc: 2011012

Committee on Human Services &
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via Email: CPNTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov & Fax (586-6659)

RE: SCR3 Testimony - Requesting The Auditor To Assess The
Social And Financial Impacts Of Requiring Health Insurers To Offer
Coverage For Hearing Aids

Dear Senators Oakland, Baker, Ihara, Taniguchi, and members of
the Committees:

My name is Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong. I am the President of
Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii ("ATRC"). ATRC
is an organization that advocates the use of technology to help
individuals with disabilities lead productive and full lives. ATRC is
testifying in support of SCR 3.

This resolution requests that the Auditor conduct an impact
assessment report of the social and financial impacts of mandating
coverage for hearing aids for hospital and medical service plan
contracts, medical service corporation contracts, and health
maintenance organization plans.

ATRC supports SCR 3 for the following reasons:

Hearing loss is the "Invisible Disability"

- Thirty-six million American experience hearing loss (American Academy of Audiology)
- Those who have difficulty hearing can experience such distorted and incomplete communication that it seriously impacts their professional and personal lives, at times leading to isolation and withdrawal.



**Aloha United Way
Partner Agency**

#75010

A non-profit organization
501(c) (3)

414 Kuwili Street, Suite 104 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

V: (808) 532-7110 • TTY: (808) 532-7113 • Fax: (808) 532-7120 • Toll Free: 1-800-645-3007


- Loss of hearing is a serious life issue, a medical condition that is associated with physical, emotional, mental and social well-being. Depression, anxiety, emotional instability, phobias, withdrawal, isolation, lessened health status and lessened self-esteem have all been linked to uncorrected hearing loss." (National Council on Aging: Untreated Hearing Loss Linked to Depression, Anxiety, Isolation in Seniors).

THE SOLUTION: HEARING AIDS

- Almost all (95 percent) of Americans with hearing loss can be treated with hearing aids.
- Nine out of ten hearing aid users report improvements in their quality of life.
- The use of hearing aids is associated with reductions in anger, frustration, paranoia, anxiety and overall improvements in emotional stability.
- Treatment of hearing loss will improve interpersonal relationships.
- Most people who use hearing aids have improved social lives.
- Successful treatment of hearing loss with hearing aids is associated with greater earning power.
- Hard-of-hearing people are less likely to be discriminated against if they use hearing aids.

ATRC urges the Committee to act favorably on SCR 3.

Sincerely,


Barbara Fischlowitz - Leong
President

PETER L. FRITZ
414 KUWILI STREET, #104
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
TELEPHONE (808) 426-0000

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
and
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Hearing date: March 10, 2011
Testimony on SCR 3

(Requesting The Auditor To Assess The Social And Financial Impacts Of Requiring Health Insurers To Offer Coverage For Hearing Aids)

Chairs Chun Oakland and Baker, Vice-Chairs Ihara and Taniguchi, and members of the Committees:

My name is Peter L. Fritz. I am an individual with a hearing loss and a user of hearing aids. I am testifying **in support** of SCR 3.

This resolution requests that the Auditor conduct an assessment of the social and financial impacts of mandating coverage for hearing aids for hospital and medical service plan contracts, medical service corporation contracts, and health maintenance organization plans. I support this resolution for the following reasons:

- Persons with hearing loss may decide not to get hearing aids because of the cost - between \$1,000 and \$4,000. As an example, my hearing aids cost approximately \$3,000.00 Requiring coverage by all health plans will make hearing aids available to more individuals.
- There is well-documented evidence proving that hearing aids positively impact the user's emotional, psychological, social, and physical well-being.
- Studies carried out by Better Hearing Institute ("BHI") indicate that hearing aids enhance the user's overall quality of life and also boost the earning power.
- One study demonstrated that an untreated hearing impairment may lead to a loss of nearly \$23,000 per year depending on the severity of a hearing loss. The BHI study said that the use of hearing aids mitigates those negative effects by about 50 percent.

I urge the Committees to pass SCR 3.

Respectfully submitted,



Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 10, 2011

Re: Support for SCR 3 – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Impacts of Requiring Health Insurers to Offer Coverage for Hearing Aids

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Baker and members of the joint Committees,

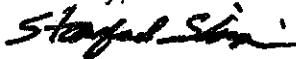
My name is Stanford Shimizu and I am deaf and I use hearing aids. I support SCR 3 that asks the Auditor to assess the social and financial impacts of requiring health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.

My own insurance from Postal Office couldn't provide my hearing aid in full benefit. I have asked my friend to help me to find someone who can help to fix my hearing aid. I am very glad that Vocational Rehabilitation is able to help me related to the employment which is high demand. I have to hear where the motor vehicles move around.

To allow people with disabilities to remain independent in the community, we need to have health insurance pay for a portion of the cost of hearing aids. My hearing aids cost \$3,000 each, and I have a difficult time paying for them because they are expensive.

Please pass this resolution so we can have the study, and change the law so health insurance companies will pay for part of the cost for buying a hearing aid. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Stanford Shimizu

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 10, 2011

Re: Support for SCR 3 – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Impacts of Requiring Health Insurers to Offer Coverage for Hearing Aids

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Baker and members of the joint Committees,

My name is Cheryl Mizusawa and I am deaf and I use hearing aids. I support SCR 3 that asks the Auditor to assess the social and financial impacts of requiring health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.

I'm very depending on the Vocational Rehabilitation for fixing my hearing aid or renew since my health insurance is not covering my full hearing aid. Can you imagined that hearing aid is cost me over \$3,700.00 alone and plus audiologist that need to have my hearing examination before getting a new hearing aid. Hearing aid is my top priority that I can depend on hearing while I was driving, home, and everything what I can be aware to see what's going on.

- While driving, I became alert when I heard the ambulance or police or fire truck siren, I pulled my car off the road to allow them passing.
- While home, when my dogs barked, I went out to see if there is any strange to came up. Find a stranger came to sneak in my property. I called police to have person arrest on my trespass property. I thanked to my hearing aid help me to be heard.
- While employment, I always can hear when person call my name or hear something strange like quarrel and many other things that need to stop.

Many other things I do not understand why insurance is able to cover the wheelchair, walker, kidney dialysis, oxygen machine, and many other equipments but except hearing aids. You can see many senior citizen need to have their hearing aid but not much cost but for people who are hearing loss due to the birth, impact fever, neuroblastoma cancer, and what else?

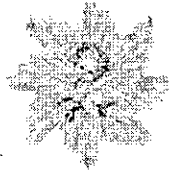
To allow people with disabilities to remain independent in the community, we need to have health insurance pay for a portion of the cost of hearing aids. My hearing aids cost me a lot of money, and I have a difficult time paying for them because they are expensive. HMSA insurance will not covering my hearing aid. Please investigate on the insurance why they are not able to cover them.

Please pass this resolution so we can have the study, and change the law so health insurance companies will pay for part of the cost for buying a hearing aid. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Mizusawa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cheryl Mizusawa
damizu@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 629-0588



Walters
16 Kilani Avenue
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786
Telephone: (WK)808-535-6100 (Cell) 808-383-6991
Email: cwalters@janikinghi.com

March 7, 2011

STATE OF HAWAII
HMSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Agenda item "Support" - SCR3 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERES TO OFFER COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS.

PUBLIC HEARING: Thursday, March 10 at 1:45 pm, Conference Room 016, 415 S Beretania Street

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Baker and members of the joint Committees,

Thank you for receiving this letter expressing my concern regarding the above mentioned issue. The bill proposed is in my opinion a highly regarded and useful tool affecting my son's continued education and progress.

My name is Cecilia I. Walters and EJ is my 12 year old with Down syndrome. He has a moderate hearing loss and I have been advised in the past that having hearing aids would assist him greatly in expanding his communication skills and education.

Sadly to Medical Insurers, these devises are deemed a luxury rather than a necessity, so not funded by medical insurance. First of all I cannot understand how hearing aids can be put into the same category and for example "Cosmetic Surgery" and I do see hearing as a need rather than a want.

If a worker is hurt on the job and losses one of his six senses, for example a hearing loss, it would be covered as a Worker's comp case and covered under insurance, however if it is a loss due to a defect or even age...it is not. There is a double standard that exists already. You do not choose to not have your sense of hearing...Not in your work and not by birth or defect.

So how do medical insurers choose not to cover the same sense?

Financially, I have been told I do not qualify for public assistance, so the state will not help him to obtain this, and even though there is medical coverage, health insurers are at this time not required to even consider this in any kind of heath benefit.

Walters
16 Kilani Avenue
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786
Telephone: (WK)808-535-6100 (Cell) 808-383-6991
Email: cwalters@janikinghi.com

PAGE 2

When my family first learned that communication with and for EJ would be a challenge, the first thing my daughters (ages 5 and 11) did, was ask for a American Sign Language Book and we as a family began to teach ourselves, and used it to begin to teach EJ.

Even though a whole new world opened up for him and was now beginning to sign the basic needs and wants to us and us to him. There was less frustration, on all...he was able to ask for milk or to play, to say "Please", "Thank You" and "I love You"The first time he signed "Mommy" I cried like a baby myself.

Now to take is one step further if he were to be able to obtain the needed devices to hear more of what he is currently missing, how much more could he perhaps further communicate his needs and wants and become a more functioning part of society.

The aids that are needed could range in cost, I am told as high as \$7,000. and without any assistance in financing through state funding or medical insurance, parents like myself are expected to absorb the total cost, or go without it.

I have always been in close contact with EJ's educators and we collectively do anything within our power to take him as far as possible in life, so this does include making another plea to humbly request hearing aids be looked at as a need by medical insurers and not a want, and for you to urge them to do so.

Does it not also make sense to use all tools available to better the lives of our children with limited communication skills... Giving EJ and others like him a better chance to be productive adults.

Thank you for allowing me to be heard, perhaps this request will not fall upon people who choose not to hear.

Sincerely,

Cecilia I. Walters on behalf of:
EJ (Eli H. Walters, Jr.)

Linda G Miller
4114 Maunaloa Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 10, 2011

Re: Support for SCR 3 – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Impacts of Requiring Health Insurers to Offer Coverage for Hearing Aids

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Baker and members of the joint Committees,

My name is Linda G Miller and I have a hearing loss and I use hearing aids. I support SCR 3 that asks the Auditor to assess the social and financial impacts of requiring health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.

This resolution is very valuable to me as I am a Sign Language interpreter who is has a hearing loss and depends on hearing aids for my profession. I have had the same pair for over ten years and can't afford to replace them due to the high cost. They should be replaced every five years and my insurance only covers \$500.00 per aid. I am limited to what assignments I can take due to the acoustics and often struggle to do my job and do it with pride. My right aid has been broken for three years and cant' be fixed any longer. I am hoping the left one will continue to hold out. They are too old to repair and the ears change over the years. They have to be replaced!

To allow people with disabilities to remain independent in the community, we need to have health insurance pay for a portion of the cost of hearing aids. My hearing aids cost \$2.500 each, and I have a difficult time paying for them because they are expensive.

Please pass this resolution so we can have the study, and change the law so health insurance companies will pay for part of the cost for buying a hearing aid. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Linda G Miller

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: Ed Chevy [livechevy59@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 11:47 PM
To: HMS Testimony

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 7, 2011

Re: Support for SCR 3 - Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial impacts of Requiring Health Insurers to Offer Coverage for Hearing Aids

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Baker and members of the joint Committees,

My name is Ed Chevy and I have a hearing loss and I use hearing aids. My son, Clyde, has 2 hearing aids and his mother, also has 2 hearing aids. The whole family wear hearing aids for life. I support SCR 3 that asks the auditor to assess the social and financial impacts of requiring health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.

My family have struggled with the high cost of hearing aids. when my insurance did not cover hearings, I wondered if was worth it to spend thousands of dollars to upgrade. Due to a progressive loss, we had to keep buying more powerful aids. After the last hearing aid purchase, I told the audiologist, that's it. We can't afford to keep doing this every 5 or 6 years. if we lose more hearing, I'm not buying another set of aids for the whole family."

To allow people with disabilities to remain independent in the community, we need to have health insurance pay for a portion of the cost of hearing aids. My hearing aids cost \$1200 each, and i have a difficult time paying for them because they are expensive.

please pass this resolution so we can have the study, and change the law so health insurance companies will pay for part of the cost for buying s hearing aid. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ed Chevy

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: Brenda Lucas [bluca72@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 9:42 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: March 10 Hearing at 1:45

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2011
TIME: 1:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

re: REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO OFFER COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS.

I want to write in support of this request because my father had complete loss of hearing and partial vision loss that severely limited him socially in his later years. I am having these same problems although not as severe right now. Anything that makes the process of acquiring aids for hearing and vision loss easier for those with limited or lower income definitely should be supported.

Thank you

Brenda Lucas

National Federation

For the Blind

Member

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 3:50 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: mochi39@sprint.blackberry.net
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Harriet Uyeno
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mochi39@sprint.blackberry.net
Submitted on: 3/7/2011

Comments:
March 10, 2011

Re: Support for SCR 3 - Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Impacts of Requiring Health Insurers to Offer Coverage for Hearing Aids

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Baker and members of the joint Committees,

My name is Harriet Uyeno and I am deaf senior citizen and I use hearing aids. I support SCR 3 that asks the Auditor to assess the social and financial impacts of requiring health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.

To allow people with disabilities to remain independent in the community, we need to have health insurance pay for a portion of the cost of hearing aids. My hearing aids cost \$3,000 each, and I have a difficult time paying for them because they are expensive and my income is not permitting to purchase. Non-profit organization helped me to cover the partial expense.

Please pass this resolution so we can have the study, and change the law so health insurance companies will pay for part of the cost for buying a hearing aid. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Harriet Uyeno

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: Renante Natividad [natividadrg@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:54 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: TESTIMONY

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 10, 2011

Re: Support for SCR 3 - Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and
Financial Impacts of Requiring Health Insurers to Offer Coverage for Hearing
Aids

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Baker and members of the joint Committees,

My name is Renante Natividad and I am hard of hearing and I use hearing aids. I support SCR 3 that asks the Auditor to assess the social and financial impacts of requiring health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.

I use my hearing aid everyday for work and socialize with the people around me. Also I use my hearing aid to help me be aware of the noises around me when I'm outside on the busy street or commuting. I can't live with out my hearing aid. Without my hearing aid, I will never understand my boss, my co-worker, my friends and most of all my family. I used a high end hearing aid and it cost me around \$8,000 each. (I only use one hearing aid since my other ear is completely deaf) My hearing aid specialist had to help me find a better way to reduce the cost by contacting my insurance company to negotiate the price. The final cost for my hearing aid was around \$1,800. It still expensive for me, but I have no choice since I really need the hearing aid to help me understand and hear the people around me. So I talk to my hearing aid specialist if I can pay monthly since I'm a mid-income earner of \$1,500 a month. This resolution would be valuable to me and to the people who use hearing aid. It will make our life easier to hear the whole world without the stress of putting money on the side and waiting until we have enough to get the hearing aid. We really need the hearing aids now to help us. I hope that the health insurance could offer us the coverage for our hearing aids.

To allow people with disabilities to remain independent in the community, we need to have a health insurance pay for a portion of the cost of hearing aids. My hearing aids cost about \$8,000 each, and I have a difficult time paying for them because they are expensive.

Please pass this resolution so we can have the study, and change the law so health insurance companies will pay for part of the cost for buying a hearing aid. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Renante Natividad

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: jeriann3252@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:27 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Fwd: Support for SCR3 - 3/10/11 @ 1:45pm

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capital
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 10, 2011

Re: Support for SCR3 - Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Impacts of Requiring Health Insurers to Offer Coverage for Hearing Aids

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Baker and members of the Joing Committees

Aloha my name is Jeri Ann Sampaio Poti and I am considered Hard of Hearing, but as my hereditary hearing condition (high frequency loss) worsens i will eventually become DEAF!

Twenty two years as an 18 year old with no financial means i was sent out into the world that is highly critical of persons with hearing problems. I suffered at jobs and was made fun of humiliated and treated like and outcast because i was able to afford specially equipped hearing aids that cost nearly \$3000.

Finally in 2004 I was referred to DVR to assistance and they helped me get my hearing devices and assisted me with going back to school. In 2007 i graduated with my associates degree in Accounting and have been working as an account clerk III at Kapiolani Community college. Doing all this with the same set of outdated worn hearing aids and still dealing with being unfairly treated by my supervisors when i asked for accommodations to move to a more quieter corner of the office to focus on my work they said the bosses son needed to be there to work on deposits, although the former account clerk with a similar hearing problem was situated there, and i was and still struggle every day at the entrance where i have to deal with people constantly coming in and out and getting visually upset when i;m not able to hear them clearly. Every week i sit in meetings and barely understand a word that is said, after my request for a notetaker was ignored. I do have limited sign language knowledge and will eventually like to be able to sit in a meeting, church service, or just have a nice chat with friends and family without feeling like an outcast.

At the present time i am only able to use one of my two necessary hearing aids because the other has been waiting for me to be able to pay to get it fixed and that has been over a year. I am a single parent, who's children's father is behind 5 years in child support, my pay has been cut 5% due to budget constraints and on top of that greedy law firm took me to court over small outstanding credit card balances that i have not been able to pay and essentially tripled the amount with fees that are garnished from my paycheck for the last 10 months.

So without any kind of coverage, DVR is no longer accepting new cases as my daughter also has the same low frequency loss hearing problem and is on a wait list for services that i had hoped she be able to qualify for before starting college next semester, she had and outdated pair that hasn't been wearable for years and has struggled through high school.

So as we sit in classes, meetings and essentially are not able to comprehend most of what is being said all the while continued to be humiliated and treated unfairly there is no means by which we can afford to purchase, repair our hearing devices without some form of coverage through our health plan.

I urge you to pass this bill to assess the financial and social impact which is so great that most of the hard of hearing people don't have the financial means to live a half decent lifestyle with hearing loss in addition to educational programs

that supervisors needs to attend to treat people with hearing problems in a respectable manner. This will also allow numerous other people with hearing loss to remain independent in the community and be able to lead productive lives in dignity.

Mahalo,

Jeri Ann Sampaio Poti

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 3:36 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: kaulana18@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kaulana Finai
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: kaulana18@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/9/2011

Comments:

Please pass this measure which would be a beneficial help to all those who suffer with some form of hearing loss. The cost of hearing aids are at least \$2000.00 per hearing aid, making a pair \$4000.00. With the insurance covering some of the cost it would help tremendously.
Thank you

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 3:32 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Olinda Aiwohi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/9/2011

Comments:

Please pass this measure, my granddaughter was born with profound deafness and by some miracle can hear a little. With the help of hearing aids she has been able to grasp words and is able to speak and function as a normal child. Although she has to have special measures taken without the aids she would have been a deaf mute, but because of the aids she is as normal as she can be, and attends Kamehameha Paukukalo Preschool. The cost of the aids were too much for us, so we had to seek help from wherever we could get it and again we were blessed. But there are so many other children who would benefit from the use of hearing aids, it is only that their family cannot afford them. With insurance covering some of the cost it would be such a benefit to all.

Thank you,
Olinda Aiwohi

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 3:39 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Olinda Aiwahi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/9/2011

Comments:

This measure is very important because so many of our Hawaiian children suffer from some measure of hearing loss. A reason is because their families cannot afford hearing aids which would help them do better in school and help with their behavior. Plead past this bill
Sincerely, Olinda Aiwahi, President PHHCA

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 3:35 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: tad781@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jarred Aiwohi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tad781@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/9/2011

Comments:

Please pass this measure which would be a beneficial help to all those who suffer with some form of hearing loss. The cost of hearing aids are at least \$2000.00 per hearing aid, making a pair \$4000.00. With the insurance covering some of the cost it would help tremendously.
Thank you

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 10:37 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: laiwohi@upwhawaii.org
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lahela Aiwahi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: laiwohi@upwhawaii.org
Submitted on: 3/3/2011

Comments:

I have a 4 year old niece who is deaf and a few UPW members I represent that have lost their hearing. The financial burden placed upon my sister, her husband, my members & their families is quite expendable. It is important that the assessment is done to move forward on this vital matter. Thank you.

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 9:21 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: lalaauiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kainea Aiwahi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lalaauiwohi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/3/2011

Comments:

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 3:38 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tia Joaquin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/9/2011

Comments:

Please pass this measure which would be a beneficial help to all those who suffer with some form of hearing loss.

Thank you

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 9:22 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: hawaiiitestimony@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hawaii Testimony
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hawaiiitestimony@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/7/2011

Comments:

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 9:23 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: hawaiiitestimony@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Testimony
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hawaiiitestimony@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/7/2011

Comments:

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 3:41 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: capunicorn46@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for HMS/CPN 3/10/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Raynette Pavao
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: capunicorn46@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/9/2011

Comments:

Please pass this measure which would be a beneficial help to all those who suffer with some form of hearing loss.

Thank you