

SCR 65

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; Mandated Coverage; Hearing Aids; Impact Assessment Report

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS/CPN, WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, GREEN, Dela Cruz, Espero, Galuteria, Ihara, Ruderman, Shimabukuro, Taniguchi



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 27, 2013

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution 65 – 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 65 - 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 family members, watching television, 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 and it may be multiplied when several members in one family need hearing aids. Being able to have more 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 one amendment to page 2, line 22. Please insert "309, SD1" in the blank space following "Senate Bill No." DCAB also acknowledges and appreciates the Senate's use of "people-first language" in the "Whereas" clause on page 2, line 32 in this concurrent resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong in black ink.

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson

Handwritten signature of Francine Wai in blue ink.

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: edchevy59@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR65 on Mar 27, 2013 09:30AM
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2013 5:41:48 PM

SCR65

Submitted on: 3/24/2013

Testimony for HMS/CPN on Mar 27, 2013 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ed Chevy	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: i still believe insurance get some partial hearing aid coverage to get credits for their businesses, yet we have to pay more to get one or two aids

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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