

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
P.O. BOX 2121
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805-2121
Oahu (808) 586-7390
Toll Free 1(800) 295-0089
www.eutf.hawaii.gov

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RODERICK BECKER, CHAIRPERSON
AUDREY HIDANO VICE-CHAIRPERSON
GORDON MURAKAMI, SECRETARY-TREASURER
LINDA CURRIVAN MUSTO
WESLEY MACHIDA
CELESTE Y.K. NIP
JAMES NISHIMOTO
VIRGINIA PRESSLER
CLIFFORD UWAINA

ADMINISTRATOR
DEREK M. MIZUNO

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
DONNA A. TONAKI

WRITTEN ONLY

LATE

TESTIMONY BY DEREK MIZUNO
ADMINISTRATOR, HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
ON SENATE BILL NO. 535

February 9, 2017
9:00 a.m.
Room 016

RELATING TO HEARING AIDS

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) Board of Trustees has not had an opportunity to take a position on this bill. The EUTF Board's next meeting is February 21, 2017. EUTF staff would like to provide information on the hearing aid coverage under the EUTF plans.

For the medical carrier with the majority of the enrolled EUTF active employee and retirees, hearing aid coverage is limited to one hearing aid per ear every 60 months subject to the respective plan deductibles and coinsurance. Coverage does not include fitting, adjustment, repairs and batteries. For the carrier with the second most enrolled active employees and retirees, the EUTF active employees do not have any coverage. The EUTF Medicare Advantage with limited enrollment provides a benefit up to \$500 per year every 36 months.

EUTF's Mission: We care for the health and well being of our beneficiaries by striving to provide quality benefit plans that are affordable, reliable, and meet their changing needs. We provide informed service that is excellent, courteous, and compassionate.

Modifying the current EUTF coverage for hearing aids would add at least \$150,000 and \$62,000 annually to the active employee and retiree premiums, respectively. The additional retiree premiums would add approximately \$2.3 million to the State and counties other post-employment benefits actuarial accrued liability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

LATE

February 9, 2017

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

Senate Bill 535 - Relating to Hearing Aids

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 535 that requires health insurance providers and contracts issued after December 31, 2018 to provide coverage for the cost of hearing aids up to \$1,500 per hearing aid for each ear with hearing impairment, and that the aids may be changed every thirty-six months, as needed. These recommendations were from the Legislative Auditor's Study completed in October 2014.

Currently, private health insurance plans provide partial coverage for eyeglasses to correct vision, and some provide partial coverage for hearing aids. Hearing is an equally important sense upon which an individual depends for communication, so an individual with a hearing loss would have improved coverage for hearing aids through a private insurance carrier.

Senate Bill 535, addresses the concerns from the Auditor's sunrise review that was received by the Hawaii State Legislature on January 14, 2015. Since the sunrise review was completed in October 2014, we request that these changes incorporated into state law and take effect upon approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

CPH Testimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 3:17 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: gemcenterhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB535 on Feb 9, 2017 09:00AM*

LATE

Categories: Late

SB535

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 9, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colin Whited	The Georgia E. Morikawa Center (GEM)	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

CPH Testimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 10:12 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: Musicmind75@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB535 on Feb 9, 2017 09:00AM*

LATE

Categories: Late

SB535

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 9, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Safranski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov