

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

178

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 8, 2019

RE: H.B. No. 469

H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 469
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEARING AIDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require health insurers in
the State to provide coverage for hearing aids for all types of
hearing loss with a minimum benefit of \$1,500 for each hearing-
impaired ear every thirty-six months.

The Disability and Communication Access Board and a few
individuals testified in support of this measure. The Department
of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), Department of the
Attorney General, and Hawaii Medical Service Association provided
comments.

Your Committee notes that concerns were raised in testimony
from the DCCA that this new mandated coverage would require an
assessment by the State Auditor of the mandated coverage's social
and financial impacts. Testimony from the Disability and
Communication Access Board pointed out that the Auditor completed
an assessment of a similar measure in 2015. The DCCA pointed out
that this measure contains a minimum benefit while the measure
assessed by the Auditor did not.

HB469 HD1 HSCR HLT HMS 2019-1765



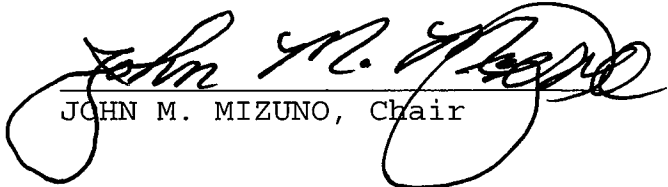
Finally, your Committee notes that concerns were raised in testimony from the Department of the Attorney General that the State may be required to defray the costs as required by the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the minimum benefit amount an insurer must provide from \$1,500 to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2050, to promote further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

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 H.B. No. 469, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 469, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

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


JOHN M. MIZUNO, Chair



