



March 29, 2023

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Legislative Management

Re: HCR 181 / HR 186 – Requesting the Department of Health to conduct a social and financial assessment of proposed mandatory health insurance coverage for weight management medication.

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HCR181 and HR186, which are Requesting the Department of Health to conduct a social and financial assessment of proposed mandatory health insurance coverage for weight management medication.

We're pleased that the Legislature is requesting a Department of Health assessment as it will provide decision-makers with objective information prior to mandating coverage for weight management medications. With health care costs continuing to escalate, it's important to consider the impact it will have on the cost of health care, especially for local employers who typically bear the brunt of such cost increases.

As part of Hawaii's community since 1938, HMSA has participated in numerous programs aimed at encouraging Hawaii residents to be more active and make healthy eating choices. Blue Zones Project, a community-wide well-being improvement initiative was brought to Hawaii through an innovative sponsorship by HMSA. This sponsorship resulted in seven communities statewide being designated as certified Blue Zones communities. Most recently, HMSA partnered with National Fitness Campaign to build outdoor Fitness Courts across the state.

HMSA strives to provide members of all ages with information and access to programs that promote healthy lifestyles and we appreciate this study being conducted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HCR 181 and HR 186.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kurisu
Assistant Vice President
Community and Government Relations