

Testimony of John Kirimitsu
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Before:
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

March 23, 2022
9:30 am
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Re: SCR 229 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATIONS.

Chair Baker and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 229 which requests the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of proposed coverage for annual mental health wellness examinations.

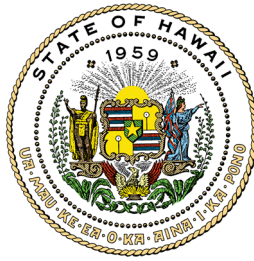
Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this resolution.

We support asking the legislative auditor to study the social and financial impacts of this proposed annual mental wellness examination benefits. We offer for your consideration a few additional clauses that may make the auditor's study more useful.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to define "mental health wellness examinations", i.e., akin to annual physical exams by your PCP, to allow health insurers to determine coverage requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to include in the impact assessment report a survey of other states in the U.S. which have implemented a mandate for annual mental health wellness examination benefits to examine what the social and financial impact has been in these states.

Thank you for your consideration.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

**S.C.R. NO. 229 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND
FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATIONS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

The Office of the Auditor appreciates the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. No. 229, requesting the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandating health insurance coverage for annual mental health wellness examinations, and offers the following comments.

The concurrent resolution does not identify “a specific legislative bill,” as section 23-51, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), requires. Section 23-51, HRS, requires that the bill also include, at a minimum, information identifying the specific health service, disease, or provider that would be covered; extent of the coverage; target groups that would be covered; limits on utilization, if any; and “standards of care.” Without this information, we will not be able to meaningfully address and satisfy the requirements of section 23-51, HRS, which include assessing both the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage.

Thank you for considering our testimony related to S.C.R. No. 229.