



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senate Resolution 56 – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Effects of Mandating Health Insurance Coverage for Hearing Aids

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Resolution 56. This resolution requests the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandating health insurance coverage for hearing aids.

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.

Hawaii Revised Statutes §23-51 requires that before a bill is passed to mandate insurance coverage for hearing aids, the auditor must prepare a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of requiring coverage. Please adopt these resolutions so that a bill may be considered by the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director