

Testimony on SCR 34 for CPC 4-17-24

From:Hawaii Disability Rights Center **Louis Erteschik, Esq.Executive Director**

Honorable Chair Nakashima, Acting Chair Sayama and CPC
Committee Members:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is in strong support I first became aware of this issue from one of the members of my Board of Directors who has had multiple problems over the years dealing with her daughter who has a mental illness. She has had behavioral issues and at times has severely decompensated. On a specific occasion some years ago her doctor thought to check her thyroid function and remarkably found that when her thyroid medication was adjusted her behavior dramatically improved. It turned out that that had a lot to do with the root causes of her issues and that the psychotropic medication she had been prescribed was not only not the solution, but also part of the problem.

For that reason she and I have been on a bit of a mission to let people know and to encourage all prescribing medical professionals to conduct an initial simple blood test for thyroid function to either rule that in or rule that out as a potential cause or contributing factor before prescribing a psychotropic medication. My hope with this Resolution is that we can educate the public and more specifically encourage the medical profession to incorporate thyroid testing into their protocols prior to prescribing psychotropic medications.

We would be extremely grateful if you would support this Concurrent Resolution.

Louis Erteschik, Esq.Executive Director

Hawaii Disability Rights Center

1132 Bishop Street

Suite 2102

Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 808-275-4011

LATE

SCR-34

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 1:05:56 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/17/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Busch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are many medical factors that can contribute to depression. All of our psychiatrists have had 5 years of post-graduate training in the diagnosis and management of psychiatric disorders, depression playing a prominent role due to its prevalence and treatability. All psychiatrists practicing in Hawaii have had extensive training in identifying medical conditions that can contribute to the development of Major Depressive Disorder. Hypothyroidism is one of many medical conditions that can cause depression, others including cancer, vitamin B12 and D deficiency, medication side effects, diabetes, heart disease, and hormonal changes. Psychiatrists are trained to do much more than just testing the thyroid level in screening medical causes of depression. Psychiatrists also conduct clinical evaluations of patients, looking for signs and symptoms of hypothyroidism to assess the need for measuring thyroid function. Whereas there are a number of medical causes of depression besides hypothyroidism; and, whereas psychiatrists are routinely trained to search for and eliminate these medical conditions as potential causes of depression, the convention of a roundtable for discussion to establish screening procedures for hypothyroidism before starting psychotropic medications poses undue government interference with the art and science of medicine, and draws the focus from other potential medical causes of depression that also require attention.

LATE

SCR-34

Submitted on: 4/17/2024 1:34:59 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/17/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion Poirier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

CHAIR NAKASHIMA, VICE-CHAIR SAYAMA, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE:

POSITION: SUPPORT

My name is Marion Poirier, and I support SCR 34. As a registered nurse with a graduate degree in healthcare administration, I have extensive experience in mental health. I am a founding member of Hawaii- American Nurses Assn.,and sit on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center. Previously I was Executive Director of NAMI Hawaii and Hawaii Nurses Assn.

I know of patients who would have benefited from a simple \$58 blood test to differentiate between thyroid disorder and mental illness. The resolution speaks to this subject in a substantial way, and many patients will benefit.

i have a suggestion. Add nursing to the mix. Our APRN's have prescriptive authority and nurses in general spend important time with patients. Their expertise would add valuable knowledge.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Honorable Chair Nakashima, Acting Chair Sayama and CPC Committee Members:

I am Dr. Joe Ritter testifying in support: This bill is personal to Representative Amato and to myself and our family. Since youth, Terez's daughter Gabby has had a virtually non functioning thyroid. Last month after moving, while waiting for new health care to kick in Gabby who is not normally in need of any mental health care or psychotropics was hospitalized with a preventable temporary hypothyroid psychosis known as Myxedema, the precise topic of this resolution.

Initially she requested that her new provider perform a thyroid test as she felt ill. They could not schedule it. Then she went to the hospital and treatment was refused.

Gabby developed serious symptoms and spent days in an emergency unit and they had no idea how to treat her. For several days she suffered greatly. Fortunately after days of suffering I was able to speak with her physicians and instruct them on correct testing protocols and let them know the primary cause.

Blood tests are automatically drawn in such events to determine if drug abuse is the proximate cause. A 50\$ test could have saved Gabby, and Could have saved Pauline's daughter Brandy being turned into a vegetable and incurring at least 500k expenses to the state of Hawai'i

Simple cheap Testing recommended in this resolution would have prevented both patients suffering and also use of expensive medical resources. Not to mention both could have been severely hurt, or died.

Every sibling in my family is a doctor, and Dr.'s need to make medical decisions not lawmakers so I do understand that lawmakers need to listen to medical organizations and experts on bills. To be clear, This resolution does not dictate medical policy it just initiates a roundtable discussion with HMA,

Please protect victims that cannot protect themselves.

And consider naming this Brandy's resolution named after Pauline's daughter.

Thank you for your time listening to this testimony in support.

Dr. Joe Ritter HD11 SD6

HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE
CONSUMER PROTECTION CPC
4-17-24 2:00 ROOM 423

RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34

DEAR SIRs,

I SUPPORT SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION #34

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY TODAY, IT IS AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE.

IN MY OPINION THE CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMITTEE AT THIS LEGISLATURE.

PROTECTION IS WHAT I DO. I AM THE CURRENT CHAIR OF THE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS, PAIMI. I AM A BOARD MEMBER OF THE HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER, WE PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL THOSE WITH DISABILITIES. UNTIL RECENTLY I WAS A MEMBER OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE AT THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL. I WAS APPOINTED TO THIS COMMITTEE DURING THE YEARS OF THE CONSENT DECREE BY DOJ. ATTY MR. VERLIN DEERENWATER. I DO NOT SPEAK FOR ANY OF THESE FINE ENTITIES MY THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ARE MY OWN.

THIS IS WHAT THE RESOLUTION IS ALL ABOUT TESTING FOR A THYROID CONDITION BEFORE ANY PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICINE ARE DOSED.

HYPER AND HYPO THYROID ISM MIMICS EXACTLY THE SYMPTOMS OF BI-POLAR DISORDER. THE GOOD NEWS IS IT HAS BEEN 16 YEARS SINCE OUR LAST PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATION. PRIOR TO THIS IT WAS ONCE A YEAR SOMETIMES TWICE A YEAR IN A PSYCH WARD.

MY DAUGHTER WAS MISDIAGNOSED AND WAS IN A VEGETATIVE STATE FOR 8 MONTHS. DR. DOUGLAS COOPER AT THE STATES WAHIAWA CLINIC CORRECTLY DIAGNOSED HER. WHILE LITHIUM WORKS VERY WELL FOR SOME PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS IT IS THE WORST MEDICINE IF IT IS A THYROID CONDITION.

I AM ASKING FOR THE STATE TO HAVE THE THYROID TESTED BEFORE PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS ARE DOSED. CLINICAL LABS \$58.00, THE RESULTS WITHIN ONE HOUR IF THERE IS A THYROID ISSUE.

DOCTORS ONCE TOOK AN OATH FIRST DO NO HARM. HORRENDOUS HARM CAN BE DONE WITH A MISDIAGNOSIS. YOU HAVE THIS POWER. PLEASE DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO ANOTHER FAMILY.

I AM A MOMMA ON A MISSION, MY NAME IS PAULINE ARELLANO.

MAHALO NUI LOA.

