



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 17, 2024

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

House Concurrent Resolution 53 – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and  
Financial Effects of Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Concurrent  
Resolution 53 – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Effects of  
Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing.

Biomarker testing is an important diagnostic tool that may lead to early detection of many  
diseases. If insurance plans do not cover it, many people will not be able to afford it.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director



April 14, 2024

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair – Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair – Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Senate Joint Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Health and Human Services  
Public Hearing: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 9:35 am. State Capitol, Conf. Room 225 or via Videoconference

RE: House Concurrent Resolution 53 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committees:

The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii leads the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies, find cures, and save lives. We provide education, advocacy, referrals, and support for individuals and their caregivers impacted by seizures. We urge your **SUPPORT for House Concurrent Resolution 53.**

The Epilepsy Foundation is the leading national voluntary health organization that speaks on behalf of the at least 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures. Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, advocates and provides services for the almost 14,000 individuals living with epilepsy throughout Hawaii. Collectively, we foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through research programs, educational activities, advocacy, and direct services. Epilepsy is a medical condition characterized by seizures, which are sudden surges of electrical activity in the brain, that affects a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy, and approximately 1 in 10 people will experience a seizure, at some point in their lifetime.

Biomarker testing represents a crucial advancement in medical science, offering significant benefits in disease diagnosis, treatment selection, and monitoring of patient response to therapy. By detecting biomarkers indicative of disease at its earliest stages, healthcare professionals can intervene sooner, reduce healthcare burden, improve quality of life, and save lives. By leveraging the power of biomarkers, we can usher in a new era of precision medicine characterized by personalized treatment strategies, early disease detection, and enhanced therapeutic efficacy.

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii, we humbly urge your **SUPPORT for House Concurrent Resolution 53.**

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naomi Manuel".

Naomi Manuel  
Executive Director  
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii

Our mission is to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. **Please learn more about our advocacy work at [epilepsy.com/advocacy](https://www.epilepsy.com/advocacy).**

## **COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair**  
**Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair**

## **COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair**  
**Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 9:35 AM**

### **Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution 53, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Health**

The American Lung Association in Hawaii urges lawmakers to support HCR 53, requesting the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandatory health insurance coverage for biomarker testing. This legislation can help improve access to critical cancer care for patients in Hawaii, including those with lung cancer.

The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary public health association in the United States, currently representing the more than 34 million Americans living with lung diseases, including more than 500 living with lung cancer in Hawaii. The Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through research, education and advocacy.

Comprehensive biomarker testing allows doctors to identify abnormalities in a cell's DNA, which in turn helps healthcare providers determine the best course of treatment for cancer patients. This is particularly important when treating lung cancer, as there are currently FDA-approved lung cancer treatments for tumor abnormalities in at least eight distinct genes. Studies show that individuals with lung cancer who have access to biomarker testing and are thus able to receive targeted therapy treatments have better overall chances of survival. Biomarker testing is a crucial part of both cancer care and treatment of other chronic conditions and has been incorporated into many clinical guidelines so that doctors may make the best decisions for their patients' health.

Despite the evidence for the value of biomarker testing, most health coverage plans have been found to be more restrictive than the National Comprehensive Cancer Network's guidelines for biomarker testing. Many patients who should receive biomarker testing may be unable to do so because of insurance coverage restrictions and high out-of-pocket costs. Therefore, it is important that [bill] increases coverage of biomarker testing and removes some of these barriers to care.

Hawaii has an opportunity to increase equitable access to healthcare, and the report generated by this resolution can provide the needed information to move forward .

Increasing coverage of biomarker testing will improve health equity in Hawaii and make cancer and chronic disease care more affordable and more accessible for patients. The American Lung Association in Hawaii urges you to support HCR 53.

With gratitude,

Pedro Haro  
Executive Director  
American Lung Association in Hawai'i  
pedro.haro@lung.org



[fightcancer.org](http://fightcancer.org)

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

**ACS CAN in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR 53 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.**

Cynthia Au, Government Relations Director – Hawaii Guam  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to be in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR 53. This resolution requests the State Auditor assess, in accordance with sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the social and financial effects of mandating health insurance coverage for medically necessary biomarker testing for diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, or ongoing monitoring of a person's disease or condition to guide treatment decisions when supported by medical and scientific evidence, as provided in House Bill No. 2223, House Draft No. 1, Regular Session of 2024, and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2025.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonprofit, non-partisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society advocates for public policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone. On behalf of our constituents, many of whom have been personally affected by cancer, we urge your support of this important resolution.

Biomarker testing is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker, to identify mutations that may impact treatment decisions. Timely access to

guideline-indicated comprehensive biomarker testing will enable more patients to access the most effective treatments for their disease and can potentially help achieve the triple aim of health care: better health outcomes, improved quality of life and reduced costs. Comprehensive biomarker testing allows patients to avoid treatments that are likely to be ineffective. 60% of oncology drugs launched in the past five years require or recommend biomarker testing prior to use.

Currently, of the Hawaii policies that were reviewed in a recent peer reviewed study, 64% were classified as “more restrictive” than National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines for biomarker testing for advanced breast, non-small cell lung cancer, melanoma and/or prostate cancer – common cancers for which there are many effective targeted treatments available.

As precision medicine becomes the standard of care in treatment for diseases like cancer, mental health, and autoimmune diseases, biomarker testing has risen in importance as the gateway to many of these therapies. Attached to this testimony is a fact sheet showing the support of patient and provider organizations. Biomarker testing impacts more than cancer patients. Patients with lupus, ALS, preeclampsia, or arthritis benefit from biomarker testing. There is groundbreaking research in biomarker testing for Alzheimer’s and heart disease.

According to a fiscal analysis conducted on biomarker testing coverage, the average allowed unit cost to insurers, per biomarker test, ranges from only \$78 to \$224. However, when biomarker testing is not covered by insurance, patients can be on the hook for hundreds or even thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs. Refer to fact sheet on costs and cost savings.

Legislation has been enacted in 16 states and is currently being heard in 12 others. We urge the committee to request the State Auditor to study biomarker testing impact in the state to make it possible for Hawaii patients to get the right treatment, at the right time.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT on this important matter. We urge that you pass out of committee this very important resolution. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Government Relations Director Cynthia Au at 808.460.6109, or [Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org](mailto:Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org).

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April 16, 2024

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Room 205  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Room 213  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

### **Re: SCR 159/HCR 53, Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Effects of Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services,

We are writing in strong support of HB 2223/SB 2551 to require health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for biomarker testing. HB 2223/SB 2551 will ensure that those Hawaiians covered by these plans will be covered for biomarker testing when medically appropriate.

Similarly, we respect the request for the Auditor's report, both as a matter of law, pursuant to Sections 23-51, and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and as a matter of good fiscal prudence. Thus, we strongly support the request for the Auditor's Report in SCR 159/HCR 53.

We wish to stress, however, that in assessing the fiscal impact of biomarker testing, the human impact needs to be considered alongside the fiscal impact, and the fiscal impact is not simply the costs of the testing.

The human impact is that more accurate testing sooner in the patient's journey both extends lives and saves many lives. The full fiscal impact must include two factors, a) the long-term fiscal impact of getting people on the right treatment sooner as this saves money for the health care system, including those systems managed by the state, and b) the economic impact of the regained productivity (and tax payments) of anyone who is or will be in the workforce. Extending lives, with a high quality of life, through better treatments, and saving lives through a cure—and both of these are direct impacts of increased biomarker testing—means that Hawaii will have more tax revenues from a healthier workforce.

Founded in 1996, ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network, is a Phoenix-based non-profit that has helped over 18,000 Stage IV metastatic cancer patients in Hawai'i, throughout the United States, and in 72 countries. We work every day to secure the most effective drugs and treatments for our patients.

Our goal is to find the right drugs at the right time for each individual patient. Nothing is more critical in achieving that goal than testing for the ever-increasing number of actionable biomarkers identified in cancer. This testing allows the choice of the targeted drug most likely to reduce or eliminate that individual patient's specific cancer. Biomarker testing replaces educated guesswork with scientific evidence and makes truly personalized, precision medicine possible.

Stage IV metastatic cancer patients simply do not have the time to try any but the most optimal treatment options. Without the correct tests, delays in finding the right drugs at the right time lead to adverse consequences for the patient in terms of the cancer progressing to a more serious stage. This puts the patient in a weakened condition when and if the right drugs are finally found—thus making that therapy less effective.

The negative result for the healthcare system—a very avoidable negative result—is that the patient's care actually costs more overall: the costs of the wrong drugs initially, and then the higher costs for all the conditions that the patient suffers as a result of the inadequately treated and worsening disease.

For patients dealing with cancer, or other lethal or chronic diseases, finding “the right drug” for relief, treatment, or cure, can be a long struggle. The last thing that should happen is to make the patient (or an often overworked and overmatched oncology practice) fight with an insurance company to get the right test to know which drugs are most likely to work.

To delay the optimal treatment for any patient is wrong. To delay the optimal treatment for a Stage IV metastatic cancer patient is simply cruel beyond belief.

HB 2223/SB 2551 ensures that the most vulnerable patients can quickly receive the treatments that biomarker tests indicate are most likely to be effective.

Codifying these critical patient protections into Hawaiian law is the right thing to do. Please let Stage IV metastatic cancer patients and their physicians fight cancer, not insurance companies.



Expanding coverage for biomarker testing will also help achieve other critical objectives of our health care system: reducing health disparities for the poor, for underserved ethnic or racial groups, and for residents of rural areas who lack access to comprehensive cancer centers.

On behalf of all the patients we serve in Hawaii who will be helped by HB 2223/SB 2551, we thank you for your consideration of this very worthy legislation, and we look forward to seeing it successfully go through the legislative process and be signed into law.

That will be a day that all Hawaiians can celebrate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [marcia@askican.org](mailto:marcia@askican.org) or (602) 513-9217 if you need any additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marcia K. Horn*

Marcia K. Horn, JD  
President and CEO  
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network  
27 West Morten Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85021-7246

(602) 618-0183  
[marcia@askican.org](mailto:marcia@askican.org)  
<https://askican.org>

P. S. We realize there may be an effort to restrict biomarker testing to just cancer. Although ICAN is solely focused on helping cancer patients—specifically Stage IV cancer patients, the most serious stage—we strongly support biomarker testing for all diseases where it is medically appropriate.

Ask yourself this: if a loved one had a lethal or chronic disease, whether cancer or any other, wouldn't you want them to have access to the tests that can lead them to a better course of treatment and possibly be the difference in whether they survive?

If your answer is yes, then please ensure that the loved ones of others also have the ability to access biomarker testing for all diseases.

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*Executive Director  
Alzheimer's Association*

## TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RE: REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS  
OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING

Aloha Chairs Jarrett Keohokalole and Joy San Buenaventure, and Members of the  
Committees:

The Alzheimer's Association – Hawaii serves the residents of Hawaii to help all those facing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias by providing local support groups and educational resources while advancing crucial research and public policy initiatives. We testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 53.

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis across the country. In Hawaii, approximately 29,000 individuals aged sixty-five and older live with Alzheimer's disease. This figure is projected to increase to over 35,000 by next year. In addition, many are experiencing subjective cognitive decline — one of the earliest warning signs of future dementia. In 2020, 6.7% of individuals aged 45 and over reported increased confusion or worsening memory loss, putting them at risk of later developing dementia.

This resolution, as received by your Committee, would request that the State Auditor assess, in accordance with sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the social and financial effects of mandating health insurance coverage for medically necessary biomarker testing for diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, or ongoing monitoring of a person's disease or condition to guide treatment decisions when supported by medical and scientific evidence, as provided in House Bill No. 2223, House Draft No. 1, Regular Session of 2024, and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2025.

An early and accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's can improve access to care and support services, enhance quality of life, and reduce the financial impact of the disease. With the historic approval of treatments that slow the progression of the disease, early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's are even more critical to ensure individuals receive the most benefit at the earliest point possible in the disease progression.

Current diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease relies largely on documenting cognitive decline, at which point Alzheimer's has already caused severe brain damage. Experts believe that biomarkers (short for "biological markers") offer one of the most promising paths to improve dementia detection, diagnosis, and treatment.

*Continued on next page*

Currently, there are some FDA-approved biomarker tools that, when applicable, can aid in diagnosing people with symptoms of Alzheimer's or other dementia (e.g., brain imaging). Some of these tools have a wealth of research and clinical data to support their use in a clinical setting (e.g., biomarkers in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)), while other emerging biomarkers are promising but still under investigation (e.g., blood tests and genetic risk profiling). Continued progress around blood-based amyloid biomarker markers will likely lead to new diagnostic tools coming to market within the next few years. Insurance coverage for biomarker testing (including blood tests, saliva tests, imaging, etc.) is currently not keeping up with scientific discoveries and treatment progress. Existing healthcare disparities and challenges to obtaining a dementia diagnosis may be exacerbated if new biomarker testing opportunities cannot be accessed.

Without acting on this legislation, dementia diagnoses may take up to two years, increasing the long-term costs to the individual, family, and the state. Because diagnosis leads to lower costs of care for people living with dementia, access to biomarker testing can accelerate these cost savings. In a 2018 analysis, diagnosis led to projected cost savings of approximately \$63,000, of which \$30,000 was in Medicare savings, \$20,000 in Medicaid savings, and \$13,000 in other savings. ([2018 Alzheimer's Facts and Figures](#))

The Alzheimer's Association requests your favorable consideration of this measure based on an earlier and faster diagnosis that offers individuals and families more time with their loved ones. We ask you to pass House Concurrent Resolution 53.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. If you have questions, please contact me at [ljduenas@alz.org](mailto:ljduenas@alz.org).

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'LJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LJ R. Duenas  
Executive Director  
Alzheimer's Association – Hawaii

**HCR-53**

Submitted on: 4/13/2024 12:48:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/17/2024 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Nimmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: Strong Support of HCR 53 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.

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Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura and joint committee members:

My name is Natalie Nimmer and I am a cancer survivor. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR 53 because it gives people with a cancer diagnosis the best shot at beating the disease. A majority of the new treatments approved by the FDA in the last 5 years require biomarker testing as a prerequisite.

When a patient receives a catastrophic cancer diagnosis, they should be able to access to the latest therapies. They should be able to know as much as possible about the particular disease invading their body so the medical team can make data-informed decisions about effective treatment.

We are moving toward a future in which cancer patients will not need to subject their bodies to a blast of every possible treatment and just hope for the best. Many of these treatments carry significant side effects--including increased risks for other serious conditions and diagnoses. Biomarker testing allows for more targeted treatments, which reduces the number of unnecessary drugs, thus reducing the impact of the side effects of those drugs.

In short, biomarker testing is an important step to accessing precision medicine which includes targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients.

Thank you for taking this important step toward a more hopeful future for cancer patients.

Sincerely,

Natalie Nimmer

Honolulu, 96814

**HCR-53**

Submitted on: 4/13/2024 11:24:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/17/2024 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl K. Okuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**RE: Strong Support of HCR 53 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura and joint committee members:

My name is Cheryl K. Okuma and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR 53.

I am a breast cancer survivor. In my immediate family of 5, two others have endured other forms of

cancer (prostate, colon). On my paternal side, my aunt is also a breast cancer survivor—twice. This causes me to wonder whether genetics is a factor. When I fill out forms for my check ups and exams I am asked if other immediate family members and those on my paternal and maternal side have had cancer, and what type.

Biomarker testing would provide a better way to determine what factors are involved, and in turn lead to the best treatment for cancer patients. Access to biomarker testing will lead to better health outcomes for cancer patients.

Progress in improving cancer outcomes increasingly involves the use of precision medicine, using information of a person's genes, proteins or other substances to diagnose and treat cancer in a targeted way. Biomarker testing is a personalized, important step to accessing precision medicine and therapies. This leads to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl K. Okuma  
Wailuku, 96793





**HCR-53**

Submitted on: 4/15/2024 2:06:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/17/2024 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Story	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a cancer patient who has benefited from genetic testing. I had testing on my tumor to determine if chemotherapy would be of benefit to my long-term survival. I was so grateful to have this testing covered by my health insurance. The test I had indicated that the risks associated with chemotherapy would outweigh the benefits and that spared me several months of side effects associated with chemotherapy. I hope all cancer patients can have the benefit of this knowledge, as appropriate, for their care and as supported by science.

Beverly Wong  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

RE: Strong Support of HCR 53 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.

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Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura and joint committee members:

I am Beverly Wong, an advocate of the American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network, and strongly support HCR 53, Biomarker Testing Auditor's Report.

Due to the years of successful cancer research, my son was cured from his Acute Leukemia/Lymphomia and it is now in remission.

I beg you to pass this very important bill which will save many lives in the future and bring happiness to so many more families.

With thanks,

Beverly Wong  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura and joint committee members:

My name is McKayla McCullah and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am in STRONG **SUPPORT** of HCR 53.

This past year my Aunty Gina, who is like a second mother to me, was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer. Thanks to early biomarker testing, it allowed her to find the right treatment and instead of having a double mastectomy, she was able to have a lumpectomy. As my aunty and I talked about her fortunately short cancer journey, having the access to this kind of test where it ended up resulted in a solution that was less invasive than what she thought had to be the original solution; she expressed that she was very grateful and blessed to have this kind of access and be able to afford it. However, I know that for many people this is not the case. And in fact, for many being diagnosed with cancer not only becomes a physical, mental, and emotional burden but as well as a financial burden. This should not be the case, but it is for most. A few months ago, I met with a man who flew over +10 hours just to have his last treatment done here in Hawai'i. He and his wife told me their story about his cancer journey. During his cancer journey, unfortunately due to the costliness of procedures and appointments, their daughter had to stop going to undergraduate school and were on the brink of losing their home and being homeless. This bill will be able to help lift part of that financial burden that many face, as well as encourage others to be tested for a deadly disease that can possibly be prevented in an earlier stage of life.

Biomarker testing is an important step to accessing precision medicine which includes targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients. HCR 53 will help to ensure that all patients, regardless of their financial situation, have access to biomarker testing. This is critical to ensure that cancer patients receive the care they need and deserve. It will also help reduce health disparities and ensure that all patients receive the same quality of care.

Sincerely,  
McKayla McCullah  
Waianae, 96792

**LATE**

**HCR-53**

Submitted on: 4/16/2024 3:08:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/17/2024 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Hausler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HCR53**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura and joint committee members:

My name is Jennifer Hausler and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR 53.

My sister Lucy Brower-Molloy passed away from breast cancer as well as so many others who died from cancer.

Biomarker testing is an important step to accessing precision medicine which includes targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients. My sons, whose father passed away from colon cancer, may benefit from the testing.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hausler

Pearl City, HI 96782