



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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ADMINISTRATOR

April 8, 2025

To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy a. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair and
Honorable Members

From: Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA and
Sr. Advisor to Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re: **HCR 171 -- Continuous Glucose Monitors**

Hearing: Friday, April 11, 2025 @ 1:01 pm; Conference Room 225

Position: Support

Testimony:

SHPDA is in strong support of this Concurrent Resolution requesting the Auditor to study and report on the social and financial effects of proposed mandatory health insurance coverage of continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) for those patients with high-risk, unstable and/or insulin-dependent diabetes.

Not every patient with diabetes requires a CGM, but for those with unstable and high-risk diabetes these devices can be lifesaving and extremely cost-effective. The annual cost of most types of CGMs is typically around \$2,000-\$3,000. But just one emergency department visit or hospital admission costs many multiples of that.

CGMs provide huge value in educating patients about their lifestyle decisions, and in notifying them via their cell phone when blood sugar is too high or too low. CGMs also help high-risk diabetic patient to reduce the risks of complications of diabetes including kidney failure, which costs over \$100,000 a year if dialysis is necessary.

SHPDA is not sure we need this study to move forward on making CGMs more available to those who will benefit from them or significantly need them. We believe the mainland is generally ahead of us in this regard. While not all diabetic patients need a CGM, the evidence for their value is well studied and evident for those insulin-dependent patients who will clearly benefit. So, let's expedite the study if this is the direction we are choosing.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Medical Association

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

Date: April 11, 2025
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)
Jerald Garcia MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: HCR 171 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORS - Auditor; Impact Assessment Report; Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage; Continuous Glucose Monitors

Position: Support

This resolution requests the Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of proposed mandatory health insurance coverage for continuous glucose monitors.

Presently 2 million Americans have type 1 diabetes, including about 304,000 children and adolescents. The prevalence of diabetes in seniors age 65 and older remains high, at 29.2%, or 16.5 million seniors (diagnosed and undiagnosed). According to the Hawaii Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), in 2022, 134,000 (11.7%) adults in Hawaii were diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes is 17% more prevalent in rural areas than urban, and 62% of rural counties do not have diabetes self management education and support programs.

Diabetes detection and treatment, ongoing self-management, and improved delivery of care are critical to preventing and reducing the burden of diabetes in Hawaii. A non-adjunctive continuous glucose monitor (CGM) can be used to make treatment decisions without the need for a stand-alone blood glucose to confirm testing results for diabetes patients. Effective glucose management can improve health outcomes, decreasing complication risks for worsening renal disease, non-traumatic lower extremity amputations and blindness in diabetic patients. HMA supports this resolution to examine the social and financial impacts of proposed health insurance coverage for continuous glucose monitors. The assessment will inform Hawaii legislative efforts to improve access to diabetes care, supporting patients with this chronic disease, particularly those in underserved and rural areas of our state.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this resolution.

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

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Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Jerald Garcia, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

State of Hawaii, Department of Health. Hawaii diabetes prevention and control program. Know Your Numbers. <https://health.hawaii.gov/diabetes/diabetes-prevention-and-control-program/numbers/> Accessed Feb 11, 2025.

Centers for Disease Control CDC. [Diabetes Self-Management: Rural Policy Brief](#). Accessed Feb 11, 2025.

Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program. (SHIP). [Chronic Disease Report 2024](#). Accessed Feb 11, 2025.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Glucose Monitor - Policy Article. CMS.gov <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleId=52464> Accessed Feb 11, 2025.

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Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Friday, April 11, 2025, at 1:01 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
Hawai'i State Capitol

HCR171 Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Effects of Proposed Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage for Continuous Glucose Monitors

Good afternoon, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Palani Smith, and I serve as the Regional Vice President for Hawai'i and Guam of Liberty Dialysis. We are an affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care. The Sisters of St. Francis pioneered dialysis care in Hawai'i and entrusted us with the honor of continuing their legacy of care.

Liberty Dialysis Hawai'i stands in **STRONG SUPPORT of HCR171** which speaks to the requirements of Section 23-51 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes which states in pertinent part that – *"Before any legislative measure that mandates health insurance coverage for specific health services, specific diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part of individual or group health insurance policies, can be considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage."*

As a dialysis provider, we know that there will be significant social and financial benefits for thousands of patients and their families if health insurance coverage were mandated for continuous glucose monitors. Continuous glucose monitors help diabetics more effectively manage swings in their blood glucose levels. Smoothing out these swings and keeping their glucose at more consistent, healthy levels improves their ability to manage their diabetes effectively. It improves their quality of life.

Approximately 60% of all patients on dialysis have diabetes as the primary cause of their end-stage renal disease (ESRD).ⁱ Diabetes is much too prevalent in Hawai'i. About 120,971 adults, or 10.6% of Hawai'i's adult population are diabetic. An additional 39,000 individuals are estimated to be living with undiagnosed diabetes and at-risk for significant health issues. About 410,000 adults in Hawai'i, 37.1% of the adult population, have prediabetes. Native Hawai'ians, Filipinos, and Japanese populations have higher prevalence rates compared to other ethnicities.ⁱⁱ Residents in rural areas face barriers to diabetes care, such as limited availability of endocrinologists and diabetes management resources.ⁱⁱⁱ

Increasing access to continuous glucose monitors across Hawai'i will help individuals with diabetes to manage their condition more actively, reducing the risk of life-altering and costly diabetes complications like end-stage renal disease, blindness, neuropathy, stroke, and heart attack.

Liberty Dialysis Hawai'i urges you to please pass House Concurrent Resolution 171. Thank you.

ⁱ Kidneyfund.org

ⁱⁱ diabetes.org, health.Hawai'i.gov

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles>