

**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

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair and
Honorable Members

From: John C (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPHA and
Senior Advisor to Governor Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re: **HCR 35 – Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial
Effects of Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker
Testing**

Hearing: Friday, March 21, 2025 @ 9:30 am; Conference Room 329

Position: SUPPORT

Testimony:

SHPHA is in strong support of this Concurrent Resolution requesting the Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandatory health insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

As well stated in the “whereas” clauses of the resolution, biomarker testing is increasingly important in many medical diagnostic and therapeutic categories. Use of and payment for biomarker testing has become widely accepted on the mainland, and Hawai'i is considered to be lagging behind in these regards.

However, based on the related costs and need for documentation of peer-reviewed guidelines and standards related to the medical necessity for mandating biomarker testing, an auditor's report on best practices would be of benefit.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPHA

2025 Hawaii
Leadership Board

Testimony to the House Committee on Health Friday, March 21, 9:30 AM Hawaii State Capitol Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

Travis Kikuchi, *Chair*
Senior Vice President
Central Pacific Bank

RE: House Concurrent Resolution 35

Lori McCarney, *Immediate*
Past Chair Community
Advocate

Tricia Medeiros, *Past Chair*
Chief Operating Officer
The Plaza Assisted Living

Gina Fujikami, *MD*
The Queen's Medical
Center

Kai Ohashi,
Financial Advisor Edward
Jones

Michael Robinson,
Vice President Hawaii Pacific
Health

Kimberly Soares, *Vice*
President Atlas Insurance

Gino Soquena,
Executive Director
Hawaii Building and
Construction Trade Council

Gordon Takaki, *Past*
President Hawaii Island
Chamber of Commerce

Cary Tanaka,
Past President
Island Insurance
Companies

Caroline Witherspoon,
President Becker
Communications

LJ R. Duenas,
Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association

Chair Takayama and Members of the Committees:

My name is Coby Chock, and I am testifying on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association Hawaii Chapter. We are in **strong support** of HCR35, REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.

Currently, over 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, yet nearly half remain undiagnosed. Early diagnosis is crucial as it opens doors to essential care and support services, enhances quality of life, and mitigates the financial burden of the disease. With the FDA's recent approval of treatments that slow Alzheimer's progression, early detection has become even more vital to maximize the benefits of these therapies.

Scientific advancements have brought us promising tools, such as a blood test for cognitive decline with a 90% accuracy rate. Despite these breakthroughs, the path to a dementia diagnosis is often lengthy and challenging, depriving families of valuable time. Presently, diagnosis depends heavily on observing cognitive decline, which means significant brain damage has already occurred by the time of diagnosis.

Researchers are diligently working to find straightforward and precise methods to detect Alzheimer's before severe symptoms manifest. Biomarkers, or biological indicators, are among the most promising avenues. Progress in biomarker research now allows us to observe Alzheimer's-related changes in the brain, monitor disease progression, and evaluate treatment efficacy.

However, the benefits of these scientific advancements are not fully realized due to limited accessibility. Insurance coverage for biomarker testing, including blood, saliva, and imaging tests, has not kept up with these innovations. The Alzheimer's Association is dedicated to removing these barriers to ensure that everyone affected by dementia can access these critical diagnostic tools.

Thank you for your attention and support. We urge you to back initiatives that expand access to biomarker testing, ultimately improving the lives of those impacted by Alzheimer's disease. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support! If you have questions, please contact me at 808-451-3410 or ckchock@alz.org



Coby Chock
Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii



**Oncology Nursing
Society**

Support. Synergy. Strength.

March 21, 2025

Hawaii House Committee on Health
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Takayama, Vice Chair Loy, and Members of the Committee on Health:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and the 218 oncology nurse members in the state of Hawaii, I am writing to express our strong support for **HCR35**, which requests the auditor assess the social and financial effects of insurance coverage for biomarker testing. We believe that the coverage of biomarker testing is critical in ensuring that oncology patients receive the most effective and personalized treatments available.

A biomarker is a biological molecule found in blood, other body fluids, or tissues that is a sign of a normal or abnormal process, or of a condition or disease. It may be used to see how well the body responds to a treatment for a disease or condition.

Biomarker testing is a significant advancement in cancer care and plays a vital role in modern oncology by helping identify the specific characteristics of an individual's cancer. Personalized treatment plans based on biomarker results allow oncologists to match patients with the most effective therapies for their unique cancer profile. This targeted approach not only improves treatment outcomes but also minimizes unnecessary side effects associated with ineffective treatments.

Research consistently demonstrates the positive impact of biomarker utilization on patient care. Studies have shown that patients receiving targeted therapies based on biomarker testing have improved progression-free survival rates and quality of life compared to those receiving conventional treatments. Additionally, as cancer treatment continues to evolve, the importance of access to biomarker testing becomes increasingly significant in navigating the rapidly changing landscape of oncological care.

Providing coverage for biomarker testing fosters equity in access to the latest advancements in cancer treatment. It ensures that patients, regardless of their financial situation, can benefit from critical testing that can inform their treatment decisions. Furthermore, by supporting a wider range of treatment options, this legislation empowers the oncology community to provide tailored care, giving them the tools necessary to make informed clinical decisions.



**Oncology Nursing
Society**

Support. Synergy. Strength.

In conclusion, **HCR35**, represents a significant step forward in creating a more equitable and effective oncology treatment environment in Hawaii. We strongly urge the committee to support this legislation to ensure that all cancer patients have access to the biomarker testing necessary for their care.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss our support, please feel free to contact healthpolicy@ons.org

Sincerely,

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)

ONS is a professional association that represents the over 100,000 oncology nurses in the United States and is the professional home to more than 35,000 members. ONS is committed to promoting excellence in oncology nursing and the transformation of cancer care. Since 1975, ONS has provided a professional community for oncology nurses, developed evidence-based education programs and treatment information, and advocated for patient care, all in an effort to improve the quality of life and outcomes for patients with cancer and their families.

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:59:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Higa	Hawai'i Parkinson Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Glen Higa, president of the Hawai'i Parkinson Association and we stand in support of this resolution to assess the effects of mandatory health insurance coverage for biomarker testing. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Glen



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 19, 2025

To: Chair Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee on Health

Date: Friday, March 21, 2025, **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

Place: Via Videoconference and Conference Room 329

Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HCR35 - Effects of Mandatory Health Insurance

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HCR35, which requests the Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandatory health insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

Key Points in Support:

1. Advancing Personalized Medicine:

- Biomarker testing is a cornerstone of personalized medicine, enabling healthcare providers to tailor treatments to individual patients based on their unique genetic, molecular, and biochemical profiles.
- Expanding access to biomarker testing through mandatory health insurance coverage ensures that more patients can benefit from targeted therapies, improving treatment outcomes and quality of life.

2. Improving Health Equity:

- Without insurance coverage, the high cost of biomarker testing can create barriers for underserved and low-income populations.
- Mandating coverage promotes health equity by ensuring that all patients, regardless of socioeconomic status, have access to this critical diagnostic tool.

3. Cost-Effectiveness:

- While biomarker testing may involve upfront costs, it can lead to significant long-term savings by identifying the most effective treatments and avoiding unnecessary or ineffective therapies.

- This approach reduces healthcare costs for both patients and insurers while improving overall efficiency in the healthcare system.

4. Supporting Early Detection and Prevention:

- Biomarker testing can aid in the early detection of diseases, allowing for timely interventions that improve patient outcomes and reduce the burden of advanced-stage treatments.

5. Strengthening Hawaii's Healthcare System:

- By assessing the social and financial effects of mandatory coverage, this measure provides a foundation for informed decision-making and policy development that strengthens Hawaii's healthcare system.

HCR35 represents a proactive and forward-thinking approach to addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with biomarker testing. We commend the Legislature for recognizing the importance of this issue and urge the passage of HCR35 to ensure equitable access to innovative healthcare solutions for all Hawaii residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



Hawaii State House Committee on Health

Friday, March 21, 2025 at 9:30 am
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

**HCR35 Requesting the Auditor to Assess the Social and Financial Effects
of Mandatory Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing**

Good morning, Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the House Committee on Health.

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 Hawaii stands in **STRONG SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** of HCR35.

We request that this concurrent resolution be amended to include kidney disease biomarkers in its list of diseases and conditions that benefit from biomarker testing. We hope that one day, Hawaii will be the nation's leader in using tools that help prevent kidney disease.

Kidney disease is a serious health issue in Hawaii. As of 2024, 5,749 Hawaii residents live with kidney failure, with 4,822 dependent on dialysis and 927 having received kidney transplants. High blood pressure (44%) and diabetes (29%) are the leading causes of kidney failure in our state. Persons of Native Hawaiian, Filipino, and Japanese ancestry as especially at-riskⁱ.

Biomarker testing is an essential tool in the fight against kidney disease. Kidney disease is a stealth disease, but testing for biomarkers makes it possible to effectively catch the disease in its very early stages far before dialysis or a transplant is needed. It helps assess kidney function (serum creatine and estimated glomerular filtration rate), detects early kidney damage (urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio), and offers earlier and more precise detection of disease (neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin and kidney injury molecule).

These biomarkers enable early and effective intervention to prevent kidney disease, significantly reducing complications, hospitalizations, and lowering healthcare costs and thereby increasing the quality of life for Hawaii's people and their families.ⁱⁱ

Liberty Dialysis Hawaii respectfully urges you to please pass HCR35 to help Hawaii's people to have access to early diagnosis of kidney disease and improved health outcomes.

ⁱ Kidneyfund.org

ⁱⁱ Bmc.org



House Committee on Health
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Friday, March 21, 2025

ACS CAN IN STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR 35 – REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.

Cynthia Au, Government Relations Director – Hawai'i Guam
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG **SUPPORT** of HCR 35: REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) writes to you today in strong support of HCR 35. We ask you and the members of your committee to pass this concurrent resolution which will bring us closer towards improving patient access to care. 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^{1,2} and reduced costs.^{3,4,5}

¹ Gutierrez, M. E., Choi, K., Lanman, R. B., Licitra, E. J., Skrzypczak, S. M., Pe Benito, R., Wu, T., Arunajadai, S., Kaur, S., Harper, H., Pecora, A. L., Schultz, E. V., & Goldberg, S. L. (2017). Genomic Profiling of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer in Community Settings: Gaps and Opportunities. *Clinical lung cancer*, 18(6), 651–659. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clcc.2017.04.004>

² Mendelsohn, J., Lazar, V., & Kurzrock, R. (2015). Impact of Precision Medicine in Diverse Cancers: A Meta-Analysis of Phase II Clinical Trials. *Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology*, 33(32), 3817–3825. <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2015.61.5997>

³ Brito RA, Cullum B, Hastings K, et al. Total cost of lung cancer care associated with broad panel versus narrow panel sequencing. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 2020; 38, no. 15_suppl; 7077. https://ascopubs.org/doi/abs/10.1200/JCO.2020.38.15_suppl.7077

⁴ Economic Impact of Next-Generation Sequencing Versus Single-Gene Testing to Detect Genomic Alterations in Metastatic Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer Using a Decision Analytic Model
DOI: 10.1200/PO.18.00356 JCO Precision Oncology - published online May 16, 2019.

⁵ Budget Impact of Next-Generation Sequencing for Molecular Assessment of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jval.2018.04.1372>

This legislation will ensure the people of Hawaii covered by Medicaid and state regulated insurance plans have coverage for biomarker testing when medically appropriate. Progress in improving cancer outcomes increasingly involves the use of precision medicine, which uses information about a person’s own genes or proteins to more accurately diagnose or treat diseases like cancer. Biomarker testing analyzes tissue, blood, or other biospecimen to identify mutations that may impact treatment decisions. This 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. There is currently limited and disparate access to biomarker testing.^{6,7,8} According to a recent survey of oncology providers, 66% reported that insurance coverage is a significant or moderate barrier to appropriate biomarker testing for their patients.⁹

Improving access to biomarker testing and thereby access to targeted therapies is a strategy to reduce health disparities and improve outcomes for cancer patients. A recent peer-reviewed study found that 64% of Hawaii policies reviewed were “more restrictive” than NCCN guidelines for biomarker testing for advanced breast, non-small cell lung cancer, melanoma and prostate cancer.¹⁰ This is evidence that there are Hawaiians who could benefit from biomarker testing that are likely being left behind due to inadequate coverage policies. Not all communities are benefiting from the latest advancements in biomarker testing and precision medicine. Communities that have been marginalized including communities of color and individuals with lower socioeconomic status are less likely to receive biomarker testing. People in rural communities and those receiving care in nonacademic medical centers are also less likely to benefit from biomarker testing.^{11,12} One jarring example of the current disparities in access to

⁶ Presley, C., Soulos, P., Chiang, A., Longtine, J., Adelson, K., Herbst, R., Nussbaum, N., Sorg, R., Abernethy, A., Agarwala, V., & Gross, C. (2017). Disparities in next generation sequencing in a population-based community cohort of patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. 35. 6563-6563. 10.1200/JCO.2017.35.15_suppl.6563.

⁷ Norris, R. P., Dew, R., Sharp, L., Greystoke, A., Rice, S., Johnell, K., & Todd, A. (2020). Are there socio-economic inequalities in utilization of predictive biomarker tests and biological and precision therapies for cancer? A systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMC medicine*, 18(1), 282. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-020-01753-0>.

⁸ Kehl, K. L., Lathan, C. S., Johnson, B. E., & Schrag, D. (2019). Race, Poverty, and Initial Implementation of Precision Medicine for Lung Cancer. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 111(4), 431–434. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djy202>.

⁹ ACS CAN. “Survey Findings Summary: Understanding Provider Utilization of Cancer Biomarker Testing Across Cancers.” Dec, 2021.

https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/national_documents/provider_utilization_of_biomarker_testing_polling_memo_dec_2021.pdf

¹⁰ Wong WB, Anina D, Lin CW, Adams DV. Alignment of health plan coverage policies for somatic multigene panel testing with clinical guidelines in select solid tumors. *Per Med*. 2022 May;19(3):171-180. doi: 10.2217/pme-2021-0174. Epub 2022 Feb 4. PMID: 35118882.

¹¹ Kim, E. S., Roy, U. B., Ersek, J. L., King, J., Smith, R. A., Martin, N., Martins, R., Moore, A., Silvestri, G. A., & Jett, J. (2019). Updates Regarding Biomarker Testing for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Considerations from the National Lung Cancer Roundtable. *Journal of thoracic oncology: official publication of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer*, 14(3), 338–342. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtho.2019.01.002>

¹² F. R., Kerr, K. M., Bunn, P. A., Jr, Kim, E. S., Obasaju, C., Pérol, M., Bonomi, P., Bradley, J. D., Gandara, D., Jett, J. R., Langer, C. J., Natale, R. B., Novello, S., Paz-Ares, L., Ramalingam, S. S., Reck, M., Reynolds, C. H., Smit, E. F., Socinski, M. A., Spigel, D. R., ... Thatcher, N. (2018). Molecular and Immune Biomarker Testing in SquamousCell Lung Cancer: Effect of Current and Future Therapies and Technologies. *Clinical lung cancer*, 19(4), 331–339. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clcc.2018.03.014>

biomarker testing: a recent study showing patients with Medicaid diagnosed with advanced non-small cell lung cancer are not only at a 19% higher risk of not receiving biomarker testing and a 30% higher risk of not benefiting from precision medicine; they also have a 23% higher risk of mortality when compared to commercially insured patients.¹³ Ensuring equitable access to biomarker testing by improving coverage for and access to testing across insurance types is key to reducing health disparities. Indeed, without action like this to expand coverage for biomarker testing – including Medicaid – advances in precision oncology could increase existing health disparities.¹⁴

To make sure more Hawaii patients have the access they need to this game changing testing, the legislature should ensure that necessity is determined by doctors and the latest evidence, not insurance companies. This HB 553 is designed to align the evidence that plans follow in determining which patients can access biomarker testing. The legislation already establishes limits on circumstances when testing should be covered and the evidence that must be demonstrated in order for testing to qualify for coverage. To date, 20 other states including California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and New York, have enacted similar laws aligning insurance coverage of biomarker testing with the latest medical and scientific evidence across disease types. HCR 35 would be a step towards the possibility for more patients to get the right treatment at the right time.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Government Relations Director Cynthia Au at Cynthia.Au@Cancer.org or 808.460.6109.

¹³ Gross CP, Meyer CS, Ogale S, Kent M, Wong WB. Associations Between Medicaid Insurance, Biomarker Testing, and Outcomes in Patients With Advanced NSCLC. *J Natl Compr Canc Netw*. 2022;20(5):479-487.e2. doi:10.6004/jnccn.2021.7083

¹⁴ Huey RW, Hawk E, Offodile AC 2nd. Mind the Gap: Precision Oncology and Its Potential to Widen Disparities. *J Oncol Pract*. 2019 Jun;15(6):301-304. doi: 10.1200/JOP.19.00102. Epub 2019 May 21. PMID: 31112478.

EXPAND ACCESS TO BIOMARKER TESTING IN HAWAII

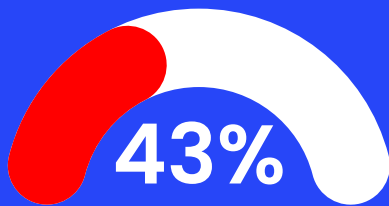
THE RIGHT TREATMENT AT THE RIGHT TIME

WHAT IS BIOMARKER TESTING?

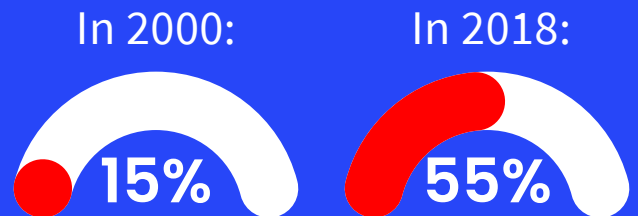
Biomarker testing is often used to help determine the best treatment for a patient.

- It is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker.
- Biomarker testing is an important step for accessing precision medicine, including targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients.
- While most current applications of biomarker testing are in oncology and autoimmune disease, there is research underway to benefit patients with other conditions including heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, and other neurological conditions, rare disease, infectious disease and respiratory illness.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIOMARKER TESTING



Of the 198 oncology drugs approved between 1998 and 2022 require biomarker testing prior to use¹



Of cancer clinical trials involved biomarkers²

BIOMARKER TESTING & HEALTH EQUITY

- **Not all communities in Hawaii are benefiting from the latest advances in biomarker testing and precision medicine.**
 - Patients who are older, non-white, uninsured or Medicaid-insured, are less likely to be tested for certain guideline-indicated biomarkers.
 - There are lower rates of testing in community settings versus academic medical centers.

THE BOTTOM LINE

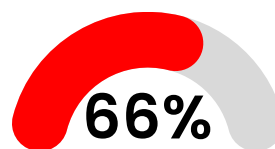
Access to appropriate biomarker testing may help to achieve:

- better health outcomes
- improved quality of life
- reduced costs

Insurance coverage for biomarker testing is failing to keep pace with innovation and advancement in treatment.

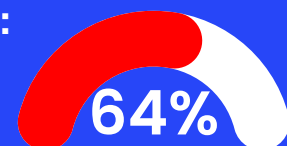
- Without action, this could increase existing disparities in health outcomes by race, ethnicity, income and geography.

Twenty states have recently passed legislation to expand coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing.



Of oncology providers reported that insurance coverage is a **significant or moderate barrier** to appropriate biomarker testing for their patients³

In HAWAII:



Of fully insured covered lives are enrolled in a plan with coverage that is more restrictive than National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines⁴

SUPPORTERS OF HAWAII BIOMARKER TESTING LEGISLATION HCR 35 & SCR 29



Patients should be able to get biomarker testing when it is ordered by their doctor and there is sufficient evidence that it can help guide their treatment. But that's not what's happening today. As my experience and others show, currently insurers in Hawai'i can use their own determinations of medical necessity to limit access to proven and necessary testing. To help future patients avoid the stress and struggle that I've experienced, I'm urging you to support HCR 35 and SCR 29.



Natalie Hyman - Kailua, O'ahu

- 1 Suehnholz SP, Nissan MH, Zhang H, et. al. Quantifying the Expanding Landscape of Clinical Actionability for Patients with Cancer. Cancer Discov. 2023.
- 2 The Evolution of Biomarker Use in Clinical Trials for Cancer Treatments: Key Findings and Implications. Personalized Medicine Coalition, 2019.
- 3 ACS CAN. "Survey Findings Summary: Understanding Provider Utilization of Cancer Biomarker Testing Across Cancers." December 2021.
- 4 Wong WB, Anina D, Lin CW, and Adams D. Alignment of health plan coverage policies for somatic multigene panel testing with clinical guidelines in select solid tumors. Per Med 2022; 10.2217/pme-2021-0174.

For more information please contact:

Cynthia Au, ACS CAN Hawaii Government Relations Director

✉ Cynthia.Au@cancer.org

☎ 808.460.6109

Aloha State Legislator,

My name is Natalie Hyman, and I reside on Oahu. I'm a stage IV breast cancer survivor and volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). I was first diagnosed with cancer in 2020 and am still here today thanks, in part, to biomarker testing. I want to ensure more Hawaii residents have access to the same testing that I did.

At the time of my initial diagnosis, my oncologist ordered biomarker testing of my tumor, which was the professional standard of care in breast cancer oncology. It's likely why my local oncologist ordered this test without expressing any concerns to me about possible insurance denial. The results of the test would reveal if any targeted therapies might work on my cancer.



My insurer denied coverage for this test based on their determination of medical necessity. Imagine that: a test meant to connect me to the most effective treatments was deemed medically unnecessary.

The insurance company's reason for denying me coverage for this standard of care biomarker testing was in part because of "lack of evidence that this technique improves health outcomes."

After an insurance denial, many patients give up because they don't have the energy or knowledge to appeal. In my case, the testing company agreed to appeal on behalf, with help from my oncologist. Despite their months-long efforts, the insurer still refused to pay for this test. The cost was \$5,800.

Unfortunately, that wasn't the only time my insurer denied coverage for biomarker testing on basis of medical necessity. It happened again in July 2023 after my cancer progressed. The price tag for this test was \$9,650 and my insurer has yet to approve coverage.

Recently, I experienced cancer progression to my lungs. I will likely have my new lung biopsy sent for biomarker testing. That means another battle with the insurance company could be in my future.

Patients should be able to get biomarker testing when it is ordered by their doctor and there is sufficient evidence it can help guide their treatment. That's not what's happening today.

To help future patients avoid the stress and struggle that I've experienced, I'm urging you to support HCR35 and SCR29. Please help Hawaii take the first step towards increasing access to biomarker testing.

Attached is a list **228** individuals who have signed the petition below.



Right Treatment *for the* Right Patient *at the* Right Time

Biomarker testing helps connect patients with the most effective treatments for their cancer – **but not all patients who need it are benefiting from this important testing.**

Why is ensuring equitable access to biomarker testing important?

- Targeted therapies based on the results of biomarker testing, can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients.
- Insurance coverage for biomarker testing is failing to keep pace with innovations and advancements in treatment preventing all communities from benefiting from the latest advancements in biomarker testing and precision medicine.

I urge members of the Hawai'i Legislature to support expanding access to biomarker testing.

Sign digitally here →



Name: _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip code: _____ Email: _____

☐ Yes, sign me up for email updates on this and other cancer-fighting campaigns!

We care about your privacy and protect how your information is used. To view our complete privacy policy, or if you have any questions, please visit: fightcancer.org/privacypolicy



Biomarker Testing Petition				
I SUPPORT! Right Treatment of the Right Patient at the Right Time				
I urge members of the Hawaii Legislature to support expanding access to biomarker testing.				
	Name	Address	City	Zip code
1	Tricia Buskirk	75-664 Moa Lanakia St	Kailua Kona	96740
2	Yoanna L Tamura	2304 Aumakua St	Pearl City	96782
3	Beverly C. Wong	3522 Ala Aloalo Place	Honolulu	96818
4	Francis Wong	3522 Ala Aloalo	Honolulu	96818
5	Brad Stout	1285 Waalanuenue Ave	Hilo	96720
6	Merrick Nishimoto	P.O. Box 116	Kealahou	96750
7	Dennis Tatti	25-5772 Makelina Pl	Kailua-Kona	96740
8	Annette O'Brien	33 Puuttina St	Hilo	96720
9	Frances Forde	PO Box 10850	Hilo	96721
10	Ashley Mainaupo	PO Box 1623	Keaau	96749
11	Lianna Kaetsu	PO Box 7177	Hilo	96720
12	Lisa Robertson	PO Box 7499	Hilo	96720
13	James Tom	155 N. Beretania E1009	Honolulu	96817
14	Titi Ricafort	952051 Waikalan Pl Apt E504	Miliani	96789
15	Marytess Camal	94-730 Lumiauw St	Waipahu	96191
16	Jade Nikeido	463 Keanuhea	Kula	96790
17	Neau Paleka	480 East Kuiana Rd	Haiku	96708
18	Guiyan Lee	500 Lunalilo Home Road 15F	Honolulu	96825
19	Keli Chikeur	670 Prospect St. Apt #704	Honolulu	96818
20	Mavis Hur	98-1005 Moanaiua Rd.	Aiea	96701
21	Sandra Shin	2304 Halikea Dr.	Honolulu	96821
22	Kyllie Siu	15 Iliaina Pl	Kailua	96734
23	Traci Sparks	1366 Laukalii St.	Honolulu	96821
24	Alton Fujio	1578 Ala Napunani	Honolulu	96818
25	Ann Marie Serrao	PO Box 144	Hilo	96721
26	Wilson Lan	303 Kealahou St	Honolulu	96825
27	Sean Keenan	5532 Pia St	Honolulu	96821
28	Neil Shim	1613 A Kamehameha IV Rd	Honolulu	96819
29	Ron Foo	2304 Halikea Dr	Honolulu	96821
30	Renee Osat-Kawasuki	1162 Mokuhano St. B201	Honolulu	96825
31	Brigid Omeaoa	927 Hahaione St	Honolulu	96825
32	Simley Deuchar	3859 Owena St	Honolulu	96815
33	Jane Takura	3677 Loulu St	Honolulu	96822
34	Christina Salisbury	75-6081 Alii Dr #DD102	Kailua-Kona	96740
35	Tim Buskirk	75-664 Mea Lanakela St	Kailua-Kona	96740
36	Andrea Tatti-Ramirez	74-5154 Hokalii Place	Kailua-Kona	956740
37	Ted Lea	PO Box 45	Kailua-Kona	96745
38	Karen Teshima	130 Ainalako Rd	Hilo	96720

	Biomarker Testing Petition			
	I SUPPORT! Right Treatment of the Right Patient at the Right Time			
	I urge members of the Hawaii Legislature to support expanding access to biomarker testing.			
39	Chany Hamilton	4547 Pnihi Rd	Kapaa	96746
40	Alek Ahana	368 Keokiana Pl	Kapaa	96746
41	Laura Creider	91-1387 Keoneula Blvd	Ewa Beach	96706
42	Evalei Shimabukuro	4214 Wumanao St	Anahola	96703
43	Maty L Simmons	4431 Kale Pl Apt #9	Lihue	96766
44	Marissa Erglin	2889 Mokoi St	Lihue	96766
45	Shirley Wilkie	PO Box 791	Kapaa	96746
46	Lissa Lang	3727 Waha Rd	Kalaheo	96741
47	Joni Trinidad	PO Box 1214	Lihue	96766
48	Dixie Prichard	626 Kamala Rd #D	Kapaa	96746
49	Patricia M Huff	3427 Nalohia Pl	Kalaheo	96741
50	Kevin Huff	3427 Nalohia Pl	Kalaheo	96741
51	Laura Walters	95-675 Holani St.	Mililani	96789
52	Joannie Lewis	2525 Kapi'olani Blvd.	Honolulu	96826
53	Leong Gouland	915 Laki Rd.	Honolulu	96817
54	Coreen Yasuda	1861 A Lanikeha Place	Pearl city	96782
55	Kuuipo	85-1 75 Farrington Highway	Waianae	96792
56	Michael Voss	134 Pai Cir Unit101	Wahiawa	96786
57	Katelyn voss	134 Pai Cir Unit101	Wahiawa	96786
58	Gail Maemori	94-1169 Lumipolu St		96797
59	Debbiedean Menor	67-271 Kukea Cir	Waialua	96791
60	Chandra Quinlan	94-1461 Waipio Uka Place, P103	Waipahu	96797
61	AURORA VALENZUEZA	91-935 Ulolani St.	EVA BEACH	96706
62	Jennifer Seki-Wong	1471 Molehu Drive	Honolulu	96818
63	Myra Yamada	95-1034 Hoalia ste	96789	96789
64	SHEMNON MIYAMOTO	95-102P MANOA ST.	MILILANI	96709
65	Brandy Lagon	977 Prospect St.#B	Honolulu	96822
66	Leona Santiago Stephens	3215 Ala Ilima St. #B-PH5	Honolulu	96818
67	Miulene Pilanca	949 Ala Nanala St. #1302	Honolulu	96818
68	Amanda-Joy Tautoa	779 Kam Hwy Apt 404	Pearl City	96782
69	Lybi Gonzales	91-1039 Paeolulu	Kapolei	96707
70	L. Yoshimoto	1480 F Pukele Ave	Honolulu	96816
71	Tori Outlaw	1054 Kalo Pl	Manoa	
72	Charles Hinnan	2015 Lime Street	Honolulu	96826
73	Cass Schuesslar	1088 Bishop Street	Honolulu	96813
74	Kennedy London	1054 Kalo Place	Honolulu	96826
75	Mari Tadaki	2005 Ind Way	Honolulu	96816
76	Lindsey K Leinaer	59524 Aukauka Pl	Haleiwa	96712
77	Frank Lee	1557 Mokuna Place	Honolulu	96816
78	Cheyenne Cullen	1995 Pauoa Road Apt B	Honolulu	96813

	Biomarker Testing Petition			
	I SUPPORT! Right Treatment of the Right Patient at the Right Time			
	I urge members of the Hawaii Legislature to support expanding access to biomarker testing.			
79	Monique Gomes	45850 Luana Place	Kaneohe	96744
80	Melanie Kushi	913633 Kauluekoko St	Ewa	96707
81	Paula Lewis	1742 Young St 103	Honolulu	96826
82	Nicole Belcher	1001 Queen St #2103	Honolulu	96814
83	Rebecca Smith	1655 Makatoa St #1218	Honolulu	96814
84	Bridget Ryan-Kern	1003 5th Ave	Honolulu	96816
85	Hannah François	1132 Bishop St #2408	Honolulu	96813
86	Elsonne Miyashiro	2155 Palolo Ave	Honolulu	96816
87	Emily Hinrichs	45-760 Nanihoku way	Kaneohe	96744
88	Joshua Parks	7773 Sauo Dr	Wahiawa	96786
89	Kaley Wong	2609 Alawa Bud	Honolulu	96815
90	Amy Humphrey	99-519 Aiea Heights	Aiea	96701
91	Eujil Peralta	1321 Waimano Home Rd	Pearl City	96782
92	Adam Cadora	830 Cedar St.	Honolulu	96814
93	Lili Hallelt	3138 Waialae Ave	Honolulu	96816
94	MARIAN Roquette	84-680 Kili Dr. #1105	Waianae	96792
95	Barbara Michelman	381 Halemaumau Pl	Honolulu	96821
96	Constance Keahu Warringt	1562 ALA Aoloa Loop	Honolulu	96819
97	Elina Grugiar Bed	2747 Hillside Ave.	Honolulu	96822
98	Tyla Kalvaitis	6001 Farm ave	Pearl City	96786
99	Hyacinth Jurmey	1320 Alexander St.	Honolulu	96826
100	Laura Pietsch	490 Aulima Loop	Kailua	96734
101	Elizabeth Cotteel	201 Opihikau Way	Honolulu	96825
102	Angela Penn	3288 Moanalua Rd	Honolulu	96819
103	JOHN LEDEREL	2226 Liliha	Honolulu	96817
104	Erin Fukaya	701 Ilalo Street	Honolulu	96813
105	Judy Ko	500 Ala Moana	Honolulu	96813
106	Wynette Kitajima MD	PO Box 10	Kealahou	96750
107	Grace Hou	5824 N Camino Esplenda	Tucson	85718
108	Michele Yematsu	500 Ala Moana Blvd	Honolulu	96813
109	Kristle Akau	85-220 Lualualei Homestead Rd.	Waianae	96792
110	Karen Karbe	46-214 Konena Pl	Kaneohe	96744
111	Leslie Kumia	91-1085 Hanaloa st.	Ewa Beach	96706
112	May Allen	P.O. Box 235375	Honolulu	96823
113	Michael Shimada	3157 Charles St	Honolulu	96816
114	Teri Deptula	954096 Anna St		96789
115	Alva Sonomiera	98809 Paikauhale St	Mililani	96789
116	Amanda Park	95-1094 Hakala St	Mililani	96789
117	Russell & Bernardine Yama	95-1046 Aelike St.	Mililani	96789
118	Susie Omori	1065 Lima Dr	Honolulu	94817

	Biomarker Testing Petition			
	I SUPPORT! Right Treatment of the Right Patient at the Right Time			
	I urge members of the Hawaii Legislature to support expanding access to biomarker testing.			
119	Neelima M	BYUH. Lie -96762	Laie	96762
120	Janelle Gonzalo	92-427 Leiole st	Kapolei	96707
121	Jill Isono	1070 Ala Napunani St #301	Honolulu	96818
122	Audrey Adachi	94-1178 Nanilihilihi	Waipahu	96797
123	Susan Dela Pina	91-956 akaholo St	Ewa Beach	96706
124	ZAN DELAPINA	91-1018 Anaunau St.	Ewa Beach	96706
125	Hazel Kane	94-166 Kiala hoop	Mililani	96789
126	Victoria Martin	47-441 Ahuimanu rd	Kaneohe	96744
127	JASMINE DICKINSON	46-171 NONA Loop	Kaneohe	96744
128	Katrina Molenda	44-023 Kaimalu	Kaneohe	96744
129	Nancy Von Borzastowski	5121 Iroquios Ave	Ewa Beach	96706
130	Jill Baisac	94-1167 Nanilihilini St.	Waipahu	96797
131	Gail Sagimoto	45-346 Koa Kaniko St	Kaneohe	96744
132	Kehau Takahashi	89-336 Mano Ave	Waianae	96792
133	Melissa Adams	94-979 Kau'ola Pl. #105	Waipahu	96797
134	Edith Shigemoto	92-755 Makakilo Dr	Kapolei	96707
135	Nani Drimmondo	3461 Paalea St.	Honolulu	96816
136	LAURA E LYONS	2333 Kapiolani Blvd #1016	Honolulu	96825
137	R. Jung	2465 Ala Wai Blvd#104	Honolulu	96815
138	Karen Kanbe	44-214 Koaena Pl	Kaneohe	96744
139	G. Kawakami	46-289 Auna St	Kaneohe	96744
140	Grace DueNaluz	91-1143 Laupapa St	Ewa Beach	96706
141	Hilario G. Sagasay	99-438 Hapaini Pl	Waipahu	96797
142	Cipriano D. Corpuz	173 Anapalau St.	Honolulu	96825
143	Andres Ibero	1631 Kilohane	Honolulu	96819
144	Denise Tejada	1966 California St.	Wahiawa	96786
145	Onofre Jacinio	1733 Houghtailing St.	Honolulu	96817
146	Ashley Rodrigues	2116 Kolo Place	Wailuku	96793
147	Georgiane Koyanagi	37 Mokuhala Pl	Wailuku	96793
148	Kaleimaile Eldredge	141 Kuula St.	Kahului	96732
149	Noelani Eldredge	141 Kuula St.	Kahului	94732
150	Luz DiGNEY	39E Makahehi Place	Kahului	96732
151	Sarah Lane	55 Healaoi Pl	Makawao	96768
152	Kameron lum	573 Kaiwahine St. #201	Kihei	96753
153	Jordan Hernandez-Rodas	573 Kaiwahine St. Apt. 201	Kihei	96753
154	CHRISTIAN LUM	573 KAIWAHINE ST. 201	Kihei	96753
155	Rayana K.Lum	573 Kaiwahinest. #103	Kihei	96753
156	David Kauhoahaa	42 Kai Kame Pl	Kihei	96753
157	CASSIE PALI	42 KAIKANE PL	Kihei	96753
158	Patrica Kono	PO Box 881029	Pukalani	96788

Biomarker Testing Petition				
I SUPPORT! Right Treatment of the Right Patient at the Right Time				
I urge members of the Hawaii Legislature to support expanding access to biomarker testing.				
159	Lucy Kono	166 Haulani st.	Pukalani	96788
160	Joanna Stearns	801 South St #4610	Honolulu	96813
161	Suzanne Carll	235 Queen St	Honolulu	96813
162	Anelalani Raposas	84814 FARRINGTON Hwy\	Waianae	96792
163	Chad Takasaki	2015 Lime St. #501	Honolulu	96825
164	Janet Hong	47-173B Hui Akepa Pl	Kaneohe	96744
165	ASHLEY YAP	640 Hahaione St	HONOLULU	96825
166	Shana Pilelo	94-439 Opihn St.	Waipahu	96797
167	Robert Young	94-325 Makohilani St.	Mililani	96789
168	Brannagan Mukaisu	316 Elelupe Rd. B	Honolulu	96821
169	Desiree Santana-Windham	94-765 Kaiao St	Waipahu	96797
170	Ron Samiamo	1121 Ala Mapunani St #703	Honolulu	96818
171	Keahi Birch	1113 Kainui Dr.	Kailua	96734
172	Sheri Iseri		Pearl Cily	96782
173	Lyle Santiago-Stephans	3215 ALA ILIMA ST.	Honolulu	96818
174	Donna Segiore	7146 Swisshelar Liy	Hillsboro	45133
175	Janis Takemoto	94-1481 Waipio UKG	Waipahu	96797
176	Emi Sampson	1065 Ilima Dr	Honolulu	96817
177	Brian Datuin	98-512 Kamahao St. Pl	Pearl Cily	96782
178	Casey Metrose	94-1067 Kapehu Street	Waipahu	96797
179	Elizabeth Johnson	3030 Ala ILima #1203	Honolulu	96818
180	Danielle Jones	3030 Ala Ilima st.	Honolulu	96818
181	Jane L. Hinrichs	45-760 Nanihoku Way	Kaneohe	96744
182	Kaleo Kia	440 Auwina Pl.	Kailua	96734
183	THERESA WIDMER	65-120 HUKILAU Lp	Waialua	96791
184	Mary Souza	1511 Nuuanu Ave Unit 114	Honolulu	96817
185	Bridget Hannu	94-428 Hokulewa Pi	Mililani	96789
186	Sophia Hanning	1335 Kanewai St	Honolulu	96816
187	Teagan Richards	1350 Ala Moana	Honolulu	96814
188	Kristiana Jamora	1335 Kanewai St.	Honolulu	96816
189	Katelyn Vanasupa	4152 Hanson St	Kailua	96734
190	Linda Hue	94-1018 Alau St.	Waipahu	96797
191	Fran Arline	98-941 A Kaonohi St.	Aiea	96701
192	HEIDI KELLER	Ilo PAR PL	LAKE MARY	32746
193	Christine Martinez	94-1484 Lanikuhana st #517	Mililani	96789
194	Cheryl Okuma	PO Box 1058 96793 Okuma	Wailuku	96793
195	Lila Johnson	520 Lunalilo Home Rd Unit 5405	Honolulu	96825
196	Lisa Uyehara	613 Kumukahi Pl	Honolulu	96825
197	Daryl Kurozawa	81 -6629 Aolani St	Kealakekua	96750

	Biomarker Testing Petition			
	I SUPPORT! Right Treatment of the Right Patient at the Right Time			
	I urge members of the Hawaii Legislature to support expanding access to biomarker testing.			
198	Rebecca Ward	4340 Pahoa Ave Apt 17C	Honolulu	96816
199	Valerie Weiss	6616 Alahele St	Kapaa	96746
200	Kathryn Omine		Honolulu	96822
201	Hereck Kauhako	758 Kapahulu Ave Ste Pm 100	Honolulu	96816
202	Cathy Stathakos	PO Box 22566	Honolulu	96823
203	Benita Brazier	PO Box 2665	Honolulu	96803
204	Makenna Thomas		Los Angeles	90024
205	Katherine Mobley	2432 Sonoma St	Honolulu	96822
206	Mark Vasconcellos	1717 Mott-Smith Dr Apt 2202	Honolulu	96822
207	Emma Ashworth	23534 Oriente Way	Ramona	92065
208	Blas Silva	91-721 Puamaeole St Apt 19C	Ewa Beach	96706
209	Robert Nehmad	935 Kauku Pl	Honolulu	96825
210	Charlene Kim	2315 Halekoa Dr	Honolulu	96821
211	Ryan Shontell		Honolulu	96826
212	Brandi Mikami		Honolulu	96813
213	Marci Takemoto		Honolulu	96826
214	Timothy Kim	2315 Halekoa Dr	Honolulu	96821
215	Cheryl Beckley	75 -5873 Walua Rd	Kailua Kona	96740
216	Gilda Valera	4280 Ono St	Lihue	96766
217	Madison Sweaney		Kapolei	96707
218	Elvelyn Fernandez	2385 Haumana Pl	Honolulu	96819
219	Lourdes Marcelo	94 -200 Mahapili St	Mililani	96789
220	John Lederer		Honolulu	96817
221	Kristin Bongaard		Kula	96790
222	Lourdes Marcelo	94 -200 Mahapili St	Mililani	96789
223	Peter Hirano	1422 Ohialoke St	Honolulu	96821
224	Richie Palafox	76 -6214 Leone Pl	Kailua Kona	96740
225	Elynelle Dechoso	94 -1197 Lumikula St	Waipahu	96797
226	Taylor Manskr			
227	Samantha Reed	68 -3485 Malina St Unit A	Waikoloa	96738
228	Bri Fuller	766 Hibiscus St	Honolulu	96818

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 1:14:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Ashcraft	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:46:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pedro Haro	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HCR 35

Committee on Health

Hawai‘i House of Representatives

Date: Friday, March 21, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM

Place: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 329

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and members of the Committee on Health,

My name is Pedro Haro, and I am the Executive Director of the American Lung Association in **Hawai‘i**. I am providing testimony today on behalf of our organization and the many individuals in **Hawai‘i** affected by lung disease to express our strong support for House Concurrent Resolution 35.

HCR 35 requests the Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandatory health insurance coverage for biomarker testing. The American Lung Association in **Hawai‘i** believes this assessment is a crucial step towards improving the health outcomes of our community.

Biomarker testing is increasingly vital in the diagnosis and treatment of various lung diseases, including lung cancer. These tests allow for a more precise understanding of an individual's disease, enabling physicians to tailor treatment plans for optimal effectiveness. This personalized approach can lead to better patient outcomes, improved quality of life, and potentially lower long-term healthcare costs by ensuring patients receive the most appropriate and targeted therapies from the outset.

However, access to biomarker testing can be limited by insurance coverage. By mandating health insurance coverage for these essential tests, we can remove a significant barrier and ensure that more individuals in **Hawai‘i** have access to the most advanced and effective diagnostic tools available.

An assessment of the social and financial effects of such a mandate, as proposed by HCR 35, will provide valuable data to inform future policy decisions. Understanding the potential impact on patient health, healthcare costs, and the overall well-being of our community is essential as we strive to improve healthcare access and outcomes for all residents of **Hawai'i**.

The American Lung Association in **Hawai'i** urges the Committee on Health to favorably pass HCR 35. We believe this resolution represents a significant step forward in ensuring equitable access to critical diagnostic testing and ultimately improving the lives of individuals affected by lung disease in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:58:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Willingham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and committee members:

My name is Mark Willingham and I am a Community Health Educator at the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center. My testimony is submitted as an individual and not as a representative of the University of Hawai'i or the UH Cancer Center. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR35 because timely biomarker testing can help achieve better health outcomes, improve quality of life and reduce costs by connecting patients to the most effective treatment for their cancer, and is essential to cancer care. 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.

Sincerely,

Mark Willingham

Honolulu, HI 96813

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:27:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Hausler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support of HCR35: REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.

Friday, March 21, 2025; TIME: 9:30AM

Committee on Health

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and 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 HCR35.

Biomarker testing is already saving lives from cancer and other diseases and but insurance coverage is not keeping pace..

Twenty states have passed legislation to expand coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing. Today is the 6th Anniversary of my husband John's death from COPD and Lung Cancer. Let Hawaii become the 21st state and end this killer of husbands, wives, children and grandchildren..

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hausler

Pearl City. HI 96782

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:34:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

TO: House Committee on Health
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 21, 2025
TIME: 9:30 AM
PLACE: Via Videoconference
Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 35

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Cynthia J. Goto, and I am writing to express my support for HCR 35. This resolution requests the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandatory health insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

According to the American Lung Association State of Lung Cancer Report published in 2024¹, 21% of lung cancer cases are caught at an early stage in Hawaii, which is significantly lower than the national rate of 27%. Hawaii ranks 47th among the 47 states with data on diagnosis of lung cancer at an early stage placing it in the bottom tier of stage at diagnosis. In addition, the survival rate of people diagnosed with lung cancer in Hawaii is 25%, which is also significantly lower than the national rate of 28%.

Hawaii has yet to require any insurance coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing, which can help determine what treatment options would be best for individuals with lung cancer and other diseases.

Timely biomarker testing can help achieve better health outcomes, improve quality of life and reduce costs by connecting patients to the most effective treatment for their cancer.

Please support HCR 35 to assess the effects of mandating health insurance coverage for biomarker testing which will guide treatment decisions when supported by medical and scientific evidence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cynthia J. Goto, M.D.

¹ <https://www.lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/states/hawaii>

RE: Strong Support of HCR35: REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.

Friday, March 21, 2025; TIME: 9:30AM

Committee on Health

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and committee members:

My name is Chandra Quinlan and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR35.

In 2014, I was diagnosed with mucinous carcinoma of the breast. Biomarker testing was not only used to help identify my specific type of breast cancer but also helped determine the best course of treatment. Whether or not to go with radiation therapy and/or chemotherapy post-surgery was a daunting decision that was made easier after taking the Oncotype DX Breast Recurrence Score Test. The genomic biomarker test on my tumor showed that I had a higher risk of recurrence than my oncologist initially thought, thus informing my decision to aggressively fight with chemotherapy AND radiation. Thankfully, I have been cancer-free for 11 years.

Timely biomarker testing can help achieve better health outcomes, improve quality of life and reduce costs by connecting patients to the most effective treatment for their cancer. But while biomarker testing is a part of standard of care treatment for many cancer patients, insurance coverage is failing to keep pace, which is especially alarming given that 43% of the 198 oncology drugs approved between 1998 and 2022 require biomarker testing prior to use.

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.

Sincerely,

Chandra Quinlan

Waipahu, 96797

Lynda Asato
Honolulu 96817

RE: Strong Support of HCR35:REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING.

Friday, March 21, 2025; TIME: 9:30AM

Committee on Health

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and committee members:

My name is Lynda Asato and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR35.

I am a cancer survivor for thirty years and have had genetic testing done twice which I paid for myself since insurance would not pay for them. I am retired now, and would benefit greatly from insurance payment of biomarker testing for me.

- Biomarker testing is a key to unlocking precision or personalized medicine.
- Biomarker testing is a part of standard of care treatment for many cancer patients, but insurance coverage is failing to keep pace.
- 43% of the 198 oncology drugs approved between 1998 and 2022 required biomarker testing prior to use.
- Twenty states have passed legislation to expand coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing.

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 like me. Thank you for your vote in favor of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lynda Asato
Honolulu 96817

HCR-35

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 1:00:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Moana Huff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Patti Huff and I am an advocate for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (optional). I am in STRONG SUPPORT

My husband is a cancer survivor. I am his caregiver.

- Preventable: Most colorectal deaths in the U.S. are attributable to not getting screened. Colorectal cancer is the 3rd most diagnosed and deadliest cancer in Hawaii and the U.S. among men and women. Screening prevents colorectal cancer and helps with early detection. Screening is the key to reducing colorectal cancer and deaths.
- Disparities in screening: Screening rates are lowest among ages 45-49, Asian Americans, the uninsured, recent immigrants, and those with less than a high school diploma.
- Barriers: Affordability, lack of a family history or symptoms, feelings of embarrassment or fear, and no recommendation from a health professional. Removing financial barriers such as cost-sharing is an effective way to improve screening.

Sincerely,

Patti Moana Huff

3427 Nalohia Place

Kalaheo Hi 96741