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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR120, SD1 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORS

House Committee on Health
Hearing Date: April 11, 2025

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

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation, I am writing in strong support of HCR171, which requests the Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandating health insurance coverage for continuous glucose monitors (CGMs), as proposed in Senate Bill No. 838.

Diabetes is a serious and growing public health concern in Hawaii. More than 108,000 adults, nearly 1 in 10, live with this chronic disease, and many more are at risk. Effective management of blood glucose is essential to preventing life-altering complications, such as kidney failure, amputations, vision loss, and cardiovascular disease.

Continuous glucose monitors provide individuals with real-time, dynamic information on their glucose levels, something that traditional fingerstick meters cannot match. CGMs not only empower people with diabetes to manage their condition more safely and independently, but also reduce the likelihood of costly emergency care and hospitalizations caused by severe hypo- or hyperglycemia.

I urge the Committee to pass SCR120, SD1 and allow the Auditor's assessment to proceed. Access to continuous glucose monitoring is not just a technological advancement; it is a matter of public health, health equity, and quality of life for thousands of Hawaii residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Lisa Rantz
Executive Director

Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair

Representative Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Date: April 11, 2025

From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)

Jerald Garcia MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: SCR120 SD1 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 aged 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 areas, 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

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 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

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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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