

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 23 2012

RE: H.C.R. No. 177
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui
President of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 177, H.D. 2, entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON REQUIRING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study relating to mandating insurance coverage for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Specifically, this measure requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to:

- (1) Assess the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on the proposal in Senate Bill No. 2631, S.D. 2, Regular Session of 2012, to require insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders by accident and health or sickness insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations;
- (2) Assess the impact such an autism spectrum disorder coverage mandate would have on programs financed by the



State, including but not limited to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund and QUEST programs;

- (3) Analyze the cost of providing insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders in Hawaii, based on actual cost effects experienced in other states that require such coverage, to the extent of available information;
- (4) Report information on the recommended clinical guidelines made by organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the United States Surgeon General, the National Institute of Mental Health, or the National Research Council for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders; and
- (5) Provide information on the reported clinical effectiveness of treatments for autism spectrum disorders that are covered by insurance in states that mandate coverage for autism treatments.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Special Education Advisory Council, Kaiser Permanente, Autism Behavior Consulting Group, Inc., Autism Speaks, and three concerned individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Your Committees find that a mandate for insurers in Hawaii to provide coverage for treatment for autism spectrum disorders may have significant impacts on patients, insurers, and the State itself. Your Committees believe that it is important to thoroughly evaluate the effects of such an insurance mandate, in light of the experiences in other states that mandate coverage for autism treatment.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to provide information on autism treatments for which other states mandate coverage, the extent to which those treatments are required to be covered by insurance in those states, and the effectiveness of the




mandate in identifying and treating patients in those states, to the extent of available information; and

- (2) Requesting the Administrator of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund and the Administrator of the Department of Human Services MedQUEST Division to provide information and assistance to the Legislative Reference Bureau for the purposes of its study.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Health and Commerce and Consumer Protection that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 177, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommend its adoption in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 177, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Health and
Commerce and Consumer
Protection,



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



JOSH GREEN, M.D., Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Sixth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HCR 177, HD2	HTHKPN, WAM	4-19-12		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	✓			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T. (VC)	✓			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood				✓
GREEN, M.D., Josh	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	✓			
SOLOMON, Malama	✓			
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	6	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes