

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

970

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 15, 2013

RE: S.B. No. 654  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred S.B. No. 654,  
S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to facilitate the cessation of  
tobacco use among individuals by:

- (1) Mandating health insurance coverage for tobacco use  
cessation treatments; and
- (2) Requiring insurers to provide policy holders or  
subscribers information about tobacco use cessation  
treatment coverage.

The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii, American Cancer  
Society Cancer Action Network, American Heart Association, Hawaii  
COPD Coalition, and a few individuals testified in support of this  
measure. The Department of Health and Kaiser Permanente testified  
in support of the intent of this measure. The Hawaii Medical  
Service Association provided comments on this measure.

SB654 HD1 HSCR HLT HMS 2013-2696



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee respectfully requests that your Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Finance examine the issues raised by the Hawaii Medical Service Association specifically, whether the coverage mandate contained in this measure will result in a mandate that the State cover the cost of these newly required services pursuant to the federal Affordable Care Act.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 654, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 654, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Health,



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DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



