

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1123

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 01 2013

RE: S.C.R. No. 65

S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Human Services and Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 65 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO OFFER COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Auditor to assess the social and financial impacts of requiring health insurers to offer coverage for hearing aids.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board and one individual.

Your Committees find that according to the National Institutes of Health, an estimated one-third of Americans between the ages of sixty-five and seventy-five and around one-half of those older than seventy-five have some degree of hearing loss. In addition, a 2005 study by the Better Hearing Institute estimated that untreated hearing loss resulted in a loss of income per household of up to \$12,000 per year.

Your Committees further find that according to the Lions Club, the cost of a custom low- to mid-level analog or digital hearing aid begins around \$2,000 or less and around \$3,000 and higher for a high-end hearing aid. Medicare and most private insurance companies do not cover the cost of hearing aids through

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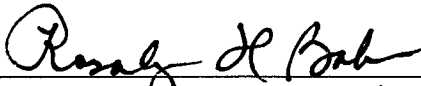


their base health care coverage. As a result, it is not unusual for people with hearing loss to choose not to purchase hearing aids because these expensive devices are not covered by insurance. Your Committees recognize that some plans do offer limited coverage on hearing aids, but because of the costs and frequency of hearing aid replacement, expanded coverage needs to be further investigated.

Your Committees have amended this measure by inserting the appropriate Senate Bill number referenced in the measure.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services and Commerce and Consumer Protection that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 65, as amended herein, and recommend that it be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, in the form attached hereto as S.C.R. No. 65, S.D. 1.

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



ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair




SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Seventh Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Human Services
HMS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SCR 65	HMS(CPN, WAM)	3-28-13		
<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
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne (C)	✓			
GREEN, Josh (VC)				✓
KIDANI, Michelle N.	✓			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.				✓
SLOM, Sam			✓	
TOTAL	2		1	2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted		<input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
CPN

Bill / Resolution No.:* SCR 65	Committee Referral: HMS/CPN, WAM	Date: 3/27/13		
<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)	✓			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood (VC)	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.				✓
SOLOMON, Malama				✓
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	4			3
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