

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3805

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 20 2018

RE: H.C.R. No. 52  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2018  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,  
to which was referred H.C.R. No. 52, H.D. 1, entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS  
BOTH THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED MANDATED  
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE COSTS OF MEDICALLY  
NECESSARY TRANSPORTATION TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES FOR  
QUALIFYING PATIENTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the  
Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of proposed  
mandated health insurance coverage for the costs of medically  
necessary transportation to the continental United States for  
qualifying patients.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Kaiser Permanente Hawaii, Hawaii  
Medical Service Association, Hawai'i Pacific Health, and seven  
individuals.

Your Committee finds that for critically ill patients,  
immediate treatment and care can make a difference in their  
survival and recovery rates. However, in certain unique cases,  
the medical procedure a patient needs is not available in Hawaii



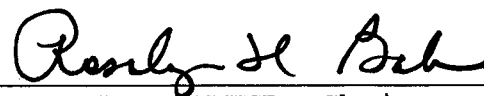
and is only available on the continental United States. Because time is of the essence, the only viable means of receiving this treatment is transportation by air ambulance. Your Committee additionally finds that commercial flights are not an option for these patients, who require accompaniment by trained personnel. Furthermore, the cost of transportation by air ambulance can be a significant financial burden, as these transport airlines, which have highly specialized crews and equipment, cannot operate without upfront payment to cover the high cost of the services they render.

Your Committee further finds that although Medicaid covers the cost of air ambulance transportation to the continental United States, the same coverage is not offered by other health insurance, which creates an inequity in patients' ability to access critically-needed medical treatment. This measure therefore requests the Auditor to conduct a statutorily-required impact assessment report that assesses the social and financial effects of the mandated health insurance coverage under House Bill No. 687, H.D. 2, Regular Session of 2018, which proposes to require health insurance coverage for the costs of medically necessary transportation to the continental United States for qualifying patients.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 52, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 52, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

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

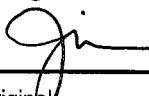


ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**  
**CPH**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HCR 52 HD1	CPH	4/13/18		
<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)	/			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	/			
CHANG, Stanley				/
ESPERO, Will				/
IHARA, Jr., Les	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.	/			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.				/
<b>TOTAL</b>	4			3
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</span>				
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