

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1376 -08

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 25, 2008

RE: H.C.R. No. 15  
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Health,  
to which was referred H.C.R. No. 15 entitled:

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

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this resolution is to request the Auditor to  
conduct an impact assessment report, studying the social and  
financial impacts of mandating coverage for hearing aids for  
Medicaid, policies and contracts, hospital and medical service  
plan contracts, medical service corporation contracts, and health  
maintenance organization plans.

The Disability and Communication Access Board, Kaiser  
Permanente and two concerned individuals supported the intent of  
this measure.

Based on testimony and subsequent discussion, your Committee  
amended this measure to include other matters for the Auditor to  
address in an impact assessment report to include the following:

- Identify the number of residents in Hawaii in the target  
population who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind,  
based on the national prevalence rates;
- A survey of other states in the U.S. which have implemented a  
mandate for hearing aids or cochlear implant;

HCR15 HD1 HSCR



- Research public and private entities that provide coverage for hearing aids to determine what is currently being used as a standard for frequency of replacement, as well as cost limitations of the coverage benefit. This research should examine whether different standards are applied to adults and children;
- Examine current medically necessary standards of care used to determine what type of hearing aid best suits an individual with hearing loss. Examine existing and possible future technology;
- Compare the cost and utilization of cochlear implants to hearing aid devices.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Health that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 15, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Legislative Management in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 15, H.D. 1.

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

*Josh Green M.D.*

JOSHUA B. GREEN, M.D., Chair

*Robert N. Herkes*

ROBERT N. HERKES, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-fourth Legislature

HSCR 1376-08

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HCR 15	<b>Committee Referral:</b> CPC/HLT, LMG, FIN	<b>Date:</b> 03-12-08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
CPC Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. HERKES, Robert N. (C)				X
2. McKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC)	X			
3. EVANS, Cindy	X			
4. GREEN, Josh, M.D.				X
5. ITO, Ken	X			X
6. LUKE, Sylvia	X			X
7. MORITA, Hermina M.	X			
8. SONSON, Alex M.	X			
9. SOUKI, Joseph M.				X
10. TSUJI, Clift	X			
11. YAMANE, Ryan I.	X			
12. YAMASHITA, Kyle T.	X			
13. MARUMOTO, Barbara C.	X			
14. THIELEN, Cynthia	X			
<b>TOTAL (14)</b>	11	0	0	3
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral _____ did not support recommendation. _____ committee acronym(s)				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> _____				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				

State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-fourth Legislature

HSCR 1376-08

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Health**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HCR 15	<b>Committee Referral:</b> CPC/HLT, LMG, FIN	<b>Date:</b> 3-12-08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GREEN, Josh, M.D. (C)				✓
2. MIZUNO, John (VC)	✓			
3. AWANA, Karen Leinani	✓			
4. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
5. BERTRAM, Joe, III	✓			
6. CABANILLA, Rida T.R.				✓
7. RHOADS, Karl	✓			
8. SHIMABUKURO, Maile S. L.	✓			
9. TOKIOKA, James Kunane				✓
10. WARD, Gene, Ph.D.	✓			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	7	0	0	3
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ committee acronym(s) did not support recommendation.				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <i>Karen Awana</i>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				