



March 20, 2025

To: Chair Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee on Health

Date: Friday, March 21, 2025, **Time:** 9:30 a.m.

Place: Via Videoconference and Conference Room 329

Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HCR91/HR87 - Insurance Coverage for Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

The Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HCR91/HR87, which requests health insurers and managed care providers that provide health insurance in the State to provide insurance coverage for prosthetic and orthotic devices. This measure is critical in ensuring equitable access to essential medical devices that significantly improve the quality of life for individuals with physical impairments or disabilities.

Key Points in Support:

1. Enhancing Quality of Life:

- Prosthetic and orthotic devices play a vital role in restoring mobility, independence, and functionality for individuals who have lost limbs or require support for musculoskeletal impairments.
- Insurance coverage for these devices ensures that patients can lead fulfilling lives without financial barriers preventing access to necessary care.

2. Promoting Health Equity:

- Individuals with disabilities often face systemic inequities, including limited access to critical medical technologies.

- Mandating insurance coverage for prosthetic and orthotic devices addresses these disparities, providing all individuals—regardless of socioeconomic status—with the opportunity to access life-changing medical devices.

3. Supporting Preventive Care and Cost Savings:

- Without adequate coverage, individuals may delay or forego obtaining prosthetic or orthotic devices, potentially leading to secondary health complications.
- Ensuring coverage promotes preventive care and long-term cost savings by improving patient outcomes and reducing the need for additional medical interventions.

4. Fostering Economic and Social Contributions:

- By enhancing mobility and independence, prosthetic and orthotic devices empower individuals to re-enter the workforce, engage in community activities, and contribute to society.
- Insurance coverage supports these outcomes, benefiting both individuals and the broader community.

5. Aligning with Hawaii’s Commitment to Inclusivity:

- This measure reflects Hawaii’s dedication to inclusivity and accessibility by recognizing the rights of individuals with disabilities to receive the medical care they need.
- Expanding coverage for prosthetic and orthotic devices aligns with the state’s values of compassion, equity, and empowerment.

HCR91/HR87 represents a critical step toward ensuring that all individuals in Hawaii have access to the medical devices they need to live healthy and independent lives. We commend the Legislature for its leadership on this issue and urge the passage of this measure to promote health equity and inclusivity for all residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Burdick, Chair
Melodie Aduja, Vice Chair
Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

HR-87

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:35:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

HR-87

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 3:56:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meg Severn	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Hello.

My name is Meg Severn and I am a 14 year old amputee. Unfortunately, I am in Japan at the moment, and am disappointed I'm not with you in person. I am a local representative of So Every Body Can Move. As an athlete and an amputee, I have experienced what it is like to not be able to participate in certain sports. I lost my leg two years ago due to a rare cancerous bone tumor. Insurance companies say that it is only "medically necessary" for me to be able to walk, therefore only providing a walking prosthetic. Do you think this is fair?

The only way that I am able to participate in any sports or PE at school is because of other peoples' charity. If not for the generosity of others, I would be sitting on the side watching my peers be physically active and running. One of my friends had knee surgery last month to be able to run again. Insurance paid for her to have knee surgery, but insurance won't pay for me to run. If it were up to insurance companies, I would not be able to run. Being able to run as an amputee is a luxury, but it shouldn't have to be.

This resolution is asking insurance companies to provide people like me with sports prosthetics. Eight states have already passed similar bills, and I would love to have your support to introduce it as a resolution in Hawaii. This legislation is not just about prosthetics—it's about ensuring people with limb loss or limb differences can thrive, not just survive. It's about promoting physical and mental health, reducing long-term healthcare costs, and ensuring a full and active life. By supporting "So Every BODY Can Move," you'll ensure that no one in Hawaii is held back from participating in physical activity.

I respectfully ask you to help us pass this resolution, and in doing so, support people like me.