

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 11, 2025

TO: The Honorable Senator San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 838 – RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE.**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2025, Time 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent, offers comments, defers to the Department of Health, and requests amendments.

PURPOSE: This bill requires all health insurers in the State, including Medicaid managed care programs, to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitors (GCMs) and related supplies under certain conditions. This would apply to insurance policies, contracts, plans, or agreements issued or renewed in the State after 12/31/2025.

GCMs can be an important tool for individuals with diabetes to monitor their blood glucose levels with real-time data, which could help them avoid blood sugar fluctuations. DHS is supportive of access to GCMs, and currently, the Med-QUEST Medicaid program, including all of the Medicaid managed care plans, covers CGM when medically necessary, including the supplies, without co-pays or costs to Medicaid members.

Every year, many new treatments and devices become available, and when clinically effective and medically necessary, they are covered by the Medicaid program, including the Medicaid managed care plans. Legislation is not necessary to mandate coverage of these

treatments as that would be administratively and legislatively burdensome and challenging to have to update the law with every new treatment and device. For this reason, DHS respectfully requests that DHS and Medicaid be deleted from this bill (Section 5, page 6, lines 8-10) since coverage is already provided.

~~SECTION 5. The coverage required under sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Act shall apply to all plans under medicaid managed care programs in the State.~~

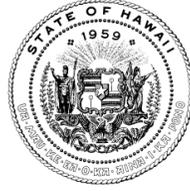
Additionally, DHS notes that Section 6 (a) (page 5, lines 11-14) may be deleted as no federal authorities are needed since the services are already covered and are already eligible to receive full federal Medicaid match.

~~SECTION 6. (a) The department of human services shall seek federal authorization and waivers as necessary to implement this Act and to allow for complete alignment with federal standards and optimization of medicaid resources.~~

Regarding (b) (page 6, lines 15-21) for DHS Med-QUEST, gifts, grants, and donations are generally not allowed to be the state fund portion of Medicaid expenditures per federal rules. Thus, we request that reference to the Department of Human Services be deleted from the clause as unnecessary.

~~(b) The department of health and department of human services may accept and expend funds from gifts, grants, and donations from individuals, private organizations, foundations, or other governmental agencies to support the expansion of continuous glucose monitor access; provided that no gift, grant, or donation may be accepted if subject to conditions inconsistent with the laws of this State.~~

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA
SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

DEAN I. HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
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Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, February 12, 2025
1:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & via Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 838, RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE

Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

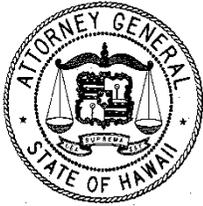
My name is Jerry Bump, and I am the Acting Insurance Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require all health insurers in the State, including Medicaid managed care programs, to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitors and related supplies under certain conditions, and applies to insurance policies, contracts, plans, or agreements issued or renewed in the State after 12/31/2025.

We note that it is unclear whether the amendments in sections 2 through 4 of this bill would be construed as "in addition to the essential health benefits" within the meaning of 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 155.170(a), or subject to defrayment provisions under 45 CFR § 155.170(b) which apply to benefits "in addition to the essential health benefits."

For the Committee's information, Hawaii Revised Statutes section 23-51 provides, in part, that "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health insurance coverage for specific health services, specific diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part of individual or group health insurance policies, [*sic*] can be considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 838, RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 **TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 225

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Andrew I. Kim or Christopher J.I. Leong, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

This bill requires all health insurers in the State, including Medicaid-managed care programs, to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitors and related supplies under certain conditions.

Pursuant to section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), "[b]efore any legislative measure that mandates health insurance coverage for specific health services, specific diseases, or certain providers of health care services as part of individual or group health insurance policies, can be considered, there shall be concurrent resolutions passed requesting the auditor to prepare and submit to the legislature a report that assesses both the social and financial effects of the proposed mandated coverage." Our understanding is that there has been no concurrent resolution adopted regarding the proposed insurance coverage under this bill as required by section 23-51, HRS. If this Committee desires to pass this bill without the adoption of concurrent resolutions requesting the Auditor to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report and without an assessment report prepared and submitted by the Auditor, we suggest that a new section be added to this bill to expressly exempt this bill from the Auditor's requirement set forth in section 23-51, HRS: "Section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not apply to this Act."

Additionally, this bill would require Qualified Health Plans to provide coverage for the cost of continuous glucose monitors and related supplies under certain conditions.

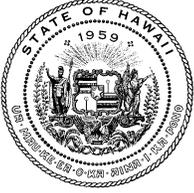
A Qualified Health Plan is an insurance plan that meets the requirements of the Affordable Care Act and is certified by the Health Insurance Marketplace. Under 45 C.F.R. § 155.170, a state may require a Qualified Health Plan to offer benefits in addition to essential health benefits, but only if it defrays the cost of the additional required benefits for the Qualified Health Plan. 45 C.F.R. § 155.170(a)(2) provides:

A benefit required by State action taking place on or before December 31, 2011, a benefit required by State action for purposes of compliance with Federal requirements, or a benefit covered in the State's EHB–benchmark plan is considered an EHB. A benefit required by State action taking place on or after January 1, 2012, other than for purposes of compliance with Federal requirements, that is not a benefit covered in the State's EHB–benchmark plan is considered in addition to the essential health benefits.

Hawaii's EHB-benchmark Plan is the Hawaii Medical Service Association's Preferred Provider Plan 2010.

It is unclear whether Hawaii's EHB-benchmark plan provides the proposed mandated coverage under this bill. If the proposed mandated coverage is not included in the EHB-benchmark plan or required under federal law, the State may be required to defray the cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

February 10, 2025

To: Senate Committee of Health and Human Services
Chair Joy San Buenaventura,
Vice Chair Henry JC Aquino, and
Honorable Members

From: Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to Governor
Josh Green MD on Healthcare Innovation

Re. SB 838 – RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE

Position: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports the intent of this act, but with comments.

SB 838 requires all health insurers in the State, including Medicaid managed care programs, to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitors and related supplies under certain conditions after 12/31/2025.

Continuous glucose monitors or CGMs are clinically valuable and potentially lifesaving medical devices that monitor blood glucose levels with real time readings that can be conveniently observed on the patient's cell phone and avoid the having the patient undergo multiple finger stick tests. They are most useful with insulin-dependent persons with diabetes, in children with Type 1 Diabetes, and in persons with unstable and highly variable blood sugar levels.

Because the CGM sensors (attached to the body) need to be replaced every two weeks, and come with an expense of about \$150 or more every two weeks, they are not needed for all persons with diabetes.

However, because they are truly lifesaving for some patients, and are very powerful means of helping many patients with diabetes adjust their lifestyles to better control their diabetes and avoid progression of the hugely

expensive complications of diabetes, they should be covered by insurers for those patients who can benefit. They are, however, frequently denied in the prior authorization process. Traditional Medicare has tended to make these devices more available than commercial insurers nationally.

SHPDA defers to the DHS/Med-QUEST program to comment on their rules and regulations with respect to how this coverage should be applied to them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'O/HANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR HAWAII
KE MA'ALUKA O KA MO'OU'AINA O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA'IHAHO'OKEIE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

February 10, 2025

To: Senate Committee of Health and Human Services
Chair Joy San Buenaventura,
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Honorable Members

From: Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to Governor
Josh Green MD on Healthcare Innovation

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Position: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

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However, because they are truly lifesaving for some patients, and are very powerful means of helping many patients with diabetes adjust their lifestyles to better control their diabetes and avoid progression of the hugely

expensive complications of diabetes, they should be covered by insurers for those patients who can benefit. They are, however, frequently denied in the prior authorization process. Traditional Medicare has tended to make these devices more available than commercial insurers nationally.

SHPDA defers to the OHS/Med-QUEST program to comment on their rules and regulations with respect to how this coverage should be applied to them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ ~~T~~ Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA

February 12, 2025

To: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)

From: Hawaii Association of Health Plans Public Policy Committee

Date/Location: February 12, 2025; 1pm/Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony with comments on SB 838 – Relating to Health Insurance

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to share our comments on SB 838. HAHP is a statewide partnership that unifies Hawaii's health plans to improve the health of Hawaii's communities together. A majority of Hawaii residents receive their health coverage through a plan associated with one of our organizations.

We believe that effective glucose monitoring has the potential to improve the health and well-being of many residents in our state. However, as this bill would create a new mandated benefit, we want to note that any new benefits would increase costs that could affect employers and residents in Hawaii. We respectfully request that the state auditor conduct an impact assessment report pursuant to HRS 23-51 and 23-52. By doing so, we can ensure that the mandate is both effective and sustainable, and that it addresses the needs of all stakeholders involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 838.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members

Testimony of
John M. Kirimitsu
Counsel

Before:
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

February 12, 2025
1:00 pm
Conference Room 225

Re: SB 838 Relating to Health Insurance

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 838 mandating coverage for continuous glucose monitors and related supplies.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii would like to offer comments.

Kaiser supports continuous glucose monitoring to help people stay close to their glucose targets, which can reduce emergency department visits and hospitalizations for chronic health issues, including hypoglycemia.

However, this proposed bill mandating glucose monitors is duplicative of Hawaii's existing diabetes mandate requiring coverage for **diabetes equipment and supplies, which would include glucose monitors**. Currently, §431:10A-121 provides:

§431:10A-121 Coverage for diabetes. Each policy of accident and health or sickness insurance providing coverage for health care, other than an accident-only, specified disease, hospital indemnity, medicare supplement, long-term care, or other limited benefit health insurance policy, that is issued or renewed in this State, shall provide coverage for outpatient diabetes self-management training, education, **equipment**, and **supplies**, if:

- (1) The **equipment**, **supplies**, training, and education are medically necessary; and
- (2) The **equipment**, **supplies**, training, and education are prescribed by a health care professional authorized to prescribe. (Emphasis added.)

Accordingly, we believe that this bill is unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

February 10, 2025

Senator San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)
Hawai'i State Legislature

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB838 – Expanding Access to Continuous Glucose Monitors

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

The Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation is honored to submit this testimony in **strong support of SB838**, which seeks to require all health insurers, including Medicaid managed care programs, to **cover continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) and related supplies** for individuals diagnosed with diabetes.

Diabetes remains a significant public health challenge in Hawaii, affecting thousands of individuals and families. Uncontrolled diabetes can lead to severe complications, including blindness, kidney failure, neuropathy, and life-threatening cardiovascular conditions. **Continuous glucose monitors represent a transformative advancement in diabetes management**, offering real-time glucose readings, trend analysis, and alerts to prevent dangerous highs and lows. These devices empower patients to make timely, informed decisions about their health, ultimately reducing emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and long-term complications associated with poorly controlled diabetes.

For many individuals in Hawaii, particularly those reliant on Medicaid, the cost of CGMs and their necessary supplies remains a significant barrier. While **CGMs are proven to improve glycemic control and reduce long-term healthcare costs**, they are often inaccessible to those who need them most due to lack of insurance coverage. SB838 addresses this disparity by ensuring equitable access to this **life-saving technology**, improving health outcomes, and **reducing the financial burden on the healthcare system as a whole**.

Without insurance coverage, many of our patients **cannot afford this life-saving technology**. SB838 ensures that all individuals, regardless of financial status, can access this essential tool to manage their diabetes effectively. Expanding CGM coverage will not only **reduce health disparities** but also **lower long-term healthcare costs** for the State by preventing complications that require expensive emergency and inpatient care.

We respectfully urge the committee to pass SB838; to help make continuous **glucose monitoring accessible to all who need it** and **improve public health in our state**.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica DeCamp
Program Manager
Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation
1190 Waianuenue Ave, Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 932-3636 | jdecamp@hhsc.org



Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
Hawai'i State Capitol

SB 838 RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE

Good afternoon, Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Palani Smith, and I serve as the Regional Vice President for Hawai'i and Guam of Liberty Dialysis. We are an affiliate of Fresenius Kidney Care.

Liberty Dialysis Hawai'i stands in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 838** which mandates all health insurers in Hawai'i to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) and its related supplies. This coverage is crucial for improving patients' ability to better manage their diabetes and preventing its severe complications including end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

As a dialysis provider with a lineage tracing back to the Sisters of St. Francis, who served Hawai'i as the very first dialysis provider, we urge you to mandate coverage for continuous glucose monitors. In doing so, you will significantly help Hawai'i's people who are diabetic. Continuous glucose monitors help diabetics more effectively manage swings in their blood glucose levels. Smoothing out these swings and keeping their glucose at more consistent, healthy levels improves their ability to manage their diabetes effectively. It improves their quality of life.

Approximately 60% of all patients on dialysis have diabetes as the primary cause of their ESRD.ⁱ Diabetes is much too prevalent in Hawai'i. About 120,971 adults, or 10.6% of Hawai'i's adult population are diabetic. An additional 39,000 individuals are estimated to be living with undiagnosed diabetes and at-risk for significant health issues. About 410,000 adults in Hawai'i, 37.1% of the adult population, have prediabetes. Native Hawai'ians, Filipinos, and Japanese populations have higher prevalence rates compared to other ethnicities.ⁱⁱ Residents in rural areas face barriers to diabetes care, such as limited availability of endocrinologists and diabetes management resources.ⁱⁱⁱ

Increasing access to continuous glucose monitors across Hawai'i will help individuals with diabetes to manage their condition more actively, reducing the risk of life-altering diabetes complications like end-stage renal disease, blindness, neuropathy, stroke, and heart attack.

Liberty Dialysis Hawai'i urges you to please pass this bill. Thank you.

ⁱ [Kidneyfund.org](https://www.kidneyfund.org)

ⁱⁱ [diabetes.org](https://www.diabetes.org), [health.hawaii.gov](https://www.health.hawaii.gov)

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles>

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:04:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Fallabel	Testifying for The American Diabetes Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you, Chair and members of the committee for hearing such an important piece of legislation and health equity issue today.

My name is Christine Fallabel and I am the Director of State Government Affairs and Advocacy with the American Diabetes Association. The ADA works every day to improve the lives of people living with diabetes. Part of that work involves improving health equity and access to the medications and technology people with diabetes need to survive, including continuous glucose monitoring, or CGM technology.

A CGM is a device that measures blood sugar levels in real time consistently throughout the day without any input from the patient. These devices are worn externally and come equipped with alerts and alarms to warn of high and low blood sugar levels.

As a standard of diabetes care, these devices have been proven to improve patients' quality of life and health outcomes as well as save money from prevented emergency room admissions, hospital stays, and more lengthy recovery time from infections and illnesses.

Studies show^[1] that CGM use improves blood sugar and A1C levels without increasing rates of hypoglycemia in patients.

CGM use can prevent expensive short- and long-term health complications of diabetes, including blindness, lower-limb amputations, heart disease and stroke and premature death.

Expanding access to CGMs will improve health equity, the lives of people with diabetes, and will ultimately save the state money. It is simply the right thing to do. For these reasons, we support SB 838 and ask that you do the same.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

[\[1\] Continuous Glucose Monitoring: A Review of Recent Studies Demonstrating Improved Glycemic Outcomes - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

February 11, 2025

To: Senator San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)
Hawai'i State Legislature

From: East Hawaii Independent Physicians Association (dba Big Island Docs)

Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of SB838 – Expanding Access to Continuous Glucose Monitors

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support for SB838, which will require health insurers, including Medicaid, to cover continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) for individuals diagnosed with diabetes.

Big Island Docs represents 50 independent private practice providers on Hawai'i Island delivering care to over 50,000 patients. As healthcare providers in Hawai'i, we see firsthand the growing challenges in patient access to care, particularly in rural and underserved communities. SB838 will ensure that everyone with diabetes, regardless of income or location, has access to CGMs, improving their health and reducing the burden on our healthcare system.

On behalf of our membership, we strongly urge the Committee to support and pass SB838 to make continuous glucose monitoring accessible for all who need it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,



Lynda Dolan, MD
President



Brenda Camacho, MD
VP & Treasurer



Craig Shikuma, MD
Medical Director, BIHC



Erin Kalua, MD
Secretary



LATE

Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Date: Feb 12, 2025
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)
Jerald Garcia MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

Re: SB 838 RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE. Department of Human Services; Department of Health; Health Insurance; Medicaid; Mandated Coverage; Diabetes; Equipment and Supplies; Continuous Glucose Monitors.

Position: Support

This measure would require all health insurers in the State, including Medicaid managed care programs, to cover the cost of continuous glucose monitors and related supplies under certain conditions, apply to insurance policies, contracts, plans, or agreements issued or renewed in the State after 12/31/2025.

Presently 2 million Americans have type 1 diabetes, including about 304,000 children and adolescents. The prevalence of diabetes in seniors age 65 and older remains high, at 29.2%, or 16.5 million seniors (diagnosed and undiagnosed). According to the Hawaii Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), in 2022, 134,000 (11.7%) adults in Hawaii were diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes is 17% more prevalent in rural areas than urban, and 62% of rural counties do not have diabetes self management education and support programs.

Diabetes detection and treatment, ongoing self-management, and improved delivery of care are critical to preventing and reducing the burden of diabetes in Hawaii. A non-adjunctive continuous glucose monitor (CGM) can be used to make treatment decisions without the need for a stand-alone BGM to confirm testing results for diabetes patients. Effective glucose management can improve health outcomes, decreasing complication risks for worsening renal disease, non-traumatic lower extremity amputations and blindness in diabetic patients. HMA supports this measure that will improve access to diabetes care, supporting patients with this chronic disease, particularly those in underserved and rural areas of our state.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Jerald Garcia, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

State of Hawaii, Department of Health. Hawaii diabetes prevention and control program. Know Your Numbers. <https://health.hawaii.gov/diabetes/diabetes-prevention-and-control-program/numbers/> Accessed Feb 11 2025.

Centers for Disease Control CDC. [Diabetes Self-Management: Rural Policy Brief](#). Accessed Feb 11 2025.

Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program. (SHIP). [Chronic Disease Report 2024](#). Accessed Feb 11 2025.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Glucose Monitor - Policy Article. CMS.gov <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleId=52464> Accessed Feb 11 2025.

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Jerald Garcia MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:35:23 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryce Fukunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bryce Fukunaga and I am a practicing pharmacist in ambulatory care. My main focus is optimizing medications for patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes. I am in support of this bill because increasing access to continuous glucose monitors will significantly aid in medication optimization and decreasing the risk of complications. Many of my patients have not been able to get these devices covered.

February 10, 2025

Senator San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)
Hawai'i State Legislature

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB838 – Expanding Access to Continuous Glucose Monitors

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rodney Powell, and I am a resident of Hawaii Island and family member of someone with diabetes, and healthcare advocate. I am writing to express my **strong support for SB838**, which will require health insurers, including Medicaid, to **cover continuous glucose monitors (CGMs)** for individuals diagnosed with diabetes.

I've worked in healthcare for the past 25 years and have personally seen the deadly impact on individuals who do not have medication access and/or coverage by insurance. For many individuals in Hawai'i, especially those in **rural and underserved areas**, accessing quality healthcare is already a challenge. SB838 will ensure that **everyone with diabetes, regardless of income or location, has access to CGMs**, improving their health and reducing the burden on our healthcare system.

I urge you to **support and pass SB838** to make continuous glucose monitoring accessible for all who need it.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rodney Powell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rodney Powell, LCSW
Hilo, Hawaii County

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:46:41 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerry Glass	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 11, 2025

Senator San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)

Hawai'i State Legislature

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB838 – Expanding Access to Continuous Glucose Monitors

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kerry Glass, and I am a resident of Hawaii Island. I am writing to express my **strong support for SB838**, which will require health insurers, including Medicaid, to **cover continuous glucose monitors (CGMs)** for individuals diagnosed with diabetes.

For many individuals in Hawai'i, especially those in **rural and underserved areas**, accessing quality healthcare is already a challenge. SB838 will ensure that **everyone with diabetes, regardless of income or location, has access to CGMs**, improving their health and reducing the burden on our healthcare system.

I urge you to **support and pass SB838** to make continuous glucose monitoring accessible for all who need it.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerry Glass

Pepeekeo, Hawaii Island

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:40:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dahlby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 10, 2025

Senator San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)

Hawai'i State Legislature

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB838 – Expanding Access to Continuous Glucose Monitors

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sylvia Dahlby, and I am a resident of Hilo on Hawaii Island who is concerned about health care for kupuna and people with diabetes.

I am writing in support of SB838, which will require health insurers, including Medicaid, to cover continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) for individuals diagnosed with diabetes. I understand how CGMs can prevent serious complications, hospital visits, and even save lives.

For many individuals in Hawai'i, especially those in rural and underserved areas, accessing quality healthcare is a challenge. SB838 will ensure that everyone with diabetes, regardless of income or location, has access to CGMs, improving their health and reducing the burden on our healthcare system.

I urge you to support and pass SB838 to make continuous glucose monitoring accessible for all who need it.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Dahlby

Hilo, Hawaii

February 10, 2025

Senator San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)
Hawai'i State Legislature

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB838 – Expanding Access to Continuous Glucose Monitors

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jarred Prudencio, and I am a clinical pharmacist who is board certified in advanced diabetes management. I am writing to express my strong support for SB838, which will require health insurers, including Medicaid, to cover continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) for individuals diagnosed with diabetes.

I have worked in direct patient care on the Big Island for 9 years now. I have extensive experience in diabetes management and have utilized CGMs in many cases. CGMs are an amazing advancement that allows patients to be more aware of their glucose levels throughout the day. They can see trends and patterns and understand how various things such as certain types of food, exercise, and medications, affect their glucose levels. The level of information provided by CGMs is not realistically achievable traditional fingerstick glucometers. In addition to allowing patients to be better informed about their own glucose levels, the CGM data is also hugely insightful for clinicians as we assist patients in managing their diabetes, by being able to provide more personalized medication adjustments and specific counseling on lifestyle modifications. In addition to my own anecdotal experiences of how I have seen first-hand the great improvements that can be made in a patient's health through utilization of a CGM, it is well documented in scientific literature through trials that utilization of a CGM improves levels of diabetes control when compared to traditional fingerstick glucometers alone.

For many individuals in Hawai'i, especially those in rural and underserved areas, accessing quality healthcare is already a challenge. SB838 will ensure that everyone with diabetes, regardless of income or location, has access to CGMs, improving their health and reducing the burden on our healthcare system. This expansion of coverage has the potential to greatly improve the health of our community.

I urge you to **support and pass SB838** to make continuous glucose monitoring accessible for all who need it.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jarred Prudencio, PharmD, BCACP, BC-ADM

Hilo, Hawaii

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:27:28 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Rantz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB838. We conducted a series of Diabetes Care Community Gatherings across Hawaii island from August 2024-January 2025 to listen and truly hear what our community members are struggling with. The community members impacted by diabetes, caregivers, and providers all identified that supports for diabetic patients as they progress in their disease leave them feeling alone and isolated. In every one of the focus groups, the attendees identified the need for better control over their glucose monitoring and that having access to a continuous glucose monitor (CGM) would help them to manage their chronic condition better and be able to live healthier, happier, longer lives. For these community members, having a CGM means that they can have real time access to understand how certain foods interact with their body and learn how to pair foods and reduce consumption of foods that lead to high glucose levels. The CGMs can also help identify when blood sugar is low and notify other family members or friends to aid in monitoring. This creates a sense of community that all participants identified is needed around diabetes care management.

Thank you so much for your consideration in passing SB838, it will make a difference in our rural areas.

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:42:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of SB838. Diabetes was one of the chronic illnesses that people's lives during the pandemic. It wasn't the virus but the cooccurring illnesses they died of such as diabetes, heart disease, pulmonary diseases, and cancer. Such equipment is necessary to save many lives.

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Aloha,

My name is Brooke Oyadomari, and I am currently attending graduate school at The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I am testifying in SUPPORT of S.B. No. 838 - RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE, which will "require all health insurers in the State, including Medicaid managed care programs, to cover continuous glucose monitors." If passed, this ACT will expand access to continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) technology for residents diagnosed with diabetes in rural and high-risk communities throughout Hawai'i.

Diabetes poses a significant health concern in Hawai'i. According to the American Diabetes Association, there are around 134,100 adults in the state are living with diabetes. Proper diabetes management is essential to avoid serious complications, including heart disease, kidney failure, and vision loss. Utilizing continuous glucose monitoring technology enables individuals to track and control their blood glucose levels in real-time, equipping them to make informed health choices and improving their overall quality of life.

However, access to this life-changing technology is often limited, particularly in rural and high-risk communities. Residents in these areas face unique challenges, including limited access to healthcare and socioeconomic barriers. Expanding access to CGM technology can help address these disparities and provide equitable healthcare for all.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the committee to support initiatives that expand access to continuous glucose monitoring technology for residents in rural and high-risk communities in Hawai'i. This investment in our healthcare system will save lives, improve health outcomes, and contribute to the overall well-being of our island communities.

This is my earnest request for your consideration and support.

Mahalo,

Brooke Oyadomari

LATE

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 10:07:27 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Tulang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB838, which would make glucose monitors and related supplies accessible to an individuals diagnosed with diabetes.

LATE

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/12/2025 2:34:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meetu Kelen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Meetu Kelen, and I am writing to express my strong support for SB838. As Community Health Worker, I have seen firsthand the impact that diabetes has on our community.

SB838 is a crucial step toward improving healthcare management of diabetes. This legislation will provide essential support for everyone impacted by diabetes, ensuring that they receive the resources and assistance they need.

In my work with our patients and non-patients including the vulnerable population, I have witnessed the challenges that affected individuals or communities face due to the lack of accessing this tool. By passing SB838, we can take meaningful action to address these concerns and create lasting, positive change.

I respectfully urge you to support SB838 and help move this important bill forward. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you.

Meetu Kelen