

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1414-22

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 , 2022

RE: S.B. No. 2678
S.D. 2
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred S.B. No. 2678, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program to expand the program by contracting with third-party service providers and staffing consultants and recruiting more volunteers.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Executive Office on Aging, AARP Hawai'i, Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, and five individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.

Your Committee finds that the federal Medicare program is essential to ensuring health care coverage for older adults and persons having disabilities in the State; however, the rules and procedures of Medicare are complex and difficult to navigate. Your Committee further finds that the Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program, administered by the Department of Health Executive Office on Aging, is staffed by only two full-time

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federally-funded employees who train a team of over eighty dedicated volunteers to provide specialized assistance to the public free of charge. This assistance includes helping Medicare-eligible individuals and their families and caregivers, and soon-to-be retirees, through objective outreach, counseling, and training make informed health insurance decisions that optimize access to care and benefits. Your Committee also finds that appropriating funds to the Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program will provide stability for and continuity of the program and expand access to important Medicare-related services statewide.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2678, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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



AARON LING JOHANSON, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-first Legislature

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Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>SB 2078, SD2, HD1</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HHH, CPL, FIN</i>	Date: <i>3/21/22</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input 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. JOHANSON, Aaron Ling (C)	✓			
2. KITAGAWA, Lisa (VC)	✓			
3. AQUINO, Henry J.C.	✓			
4. HAR, Sharon E.	✓			
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KONG, Sam Satoru	✓			
7. MIZUNO, John M.	✓			
8. MORIKAWA, Dee	✓			
9. ONISHI, Richard H.K.	✓			
10. TARNAS, David A.	✓			
11. MATSUMOTO, Lauren	✓			
TOTAL (11)	11	0	0	0
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				