

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1698

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 04 2023

RE: S.C.R. No. 188

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Health and Human Services and Commerce and Consumer Protection, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 188 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES' MED-QUEST DIVISION TO ADVOCATE THAT THE STATE INCREASE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS TO DENTISTS AND, UPON AN INCREASE APPROVAL, TO PROACTIVELY INFORM BOTH DENTAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AND MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES OF NEW RATE PLANS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the Department of Human Services' Med-QUEST Division to advocate that the State increase Medicaid reimbursements to dentists and, upon an increase approval, proactively inform both dental service providers and Medicaid beneficiaries of new rate plans and covered services.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Public Health Institute and two individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committees find that in 2009, despite oral disease being a significant health problem that affects the overall health and well-being of many Hawaii residents, the State terminated coverage for all preventive and restorative dental care services for adult Medicaid recipients and reduced it to emergency-only care that is



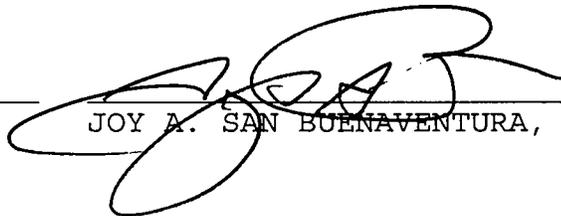
limited to pain relief, injuries, trauma, and tooth removal and extraction. In 2022, the Legislature approved funding to reinstate Medicaid dental care coverage for adult enrollees in the State for certain preventive, restorative, and denture procedures. According to testimony, nearly three hundred thousand Medicaid patients became eligible for this dental coverage beginning January 1, 2023. Your Committees find however, that the existing Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental care providers are lower than the actual cost of services, contributing to the significant shortage of dental care providers that provide the needed services to Medicaid patients, especially in rural and neighbor island communities. This measure will assist in promoting the recruitment and retention of dental care providers serving adult Medicaid enrollees in the State.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Health and Human Services and Commerce and Consumer Protection that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 188 and recommend its adoption.

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



JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, Chair



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

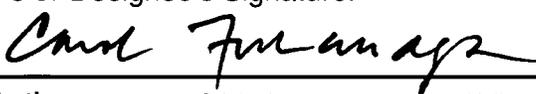
**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**HHS**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SCR 188	HHS/CPN	04/04/23		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	/			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	/			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.				/
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	/			
AWA, Brenton	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:             Original             Yellow             Pink             Goldenrod				
File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency             Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**  
**CPN**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SCR 188	HHS/CPN	4/4/23		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KEOHOKALOOLE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes