

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3604**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**APR 03 2024**

RE: S.C.R. No. 159

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 159 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BIOMARKER TESTING,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandatory health insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board, Infusion Access Foundation, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Advanced Medical Technology Association, International Cancer Advocacy Network, Alzheimer's Association-Hawaii, The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Aired Alliance, Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer, and two individuals.

Your Committees find that biomarker testing, which is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a gene, protein, or other substance that can provide information about a patient's chronic condition, allows for a more precise and personalized approach to medical care. In addition to being able to identify specific genetic, molecular, or biochemical markers associated with an individual's disease,

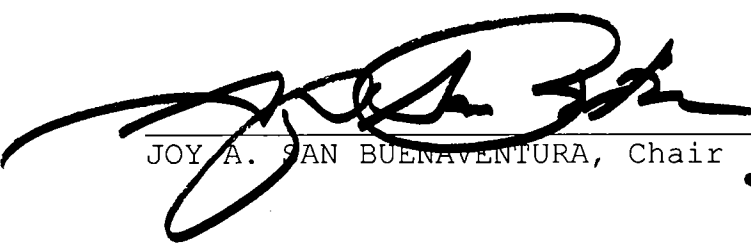


biomarker testing allows health care providers to tailor their treatments to an individual's specific condition. However, your Committees find that despite the many benefits of biomarker testing, the lack of insurance coverage for comprehensive testing creates a financial barrier for many patients who would otherwise greatly benefit from these services.


Your Committees note that H.B. No. 2223, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2024, proposes to require health insurers, mutual benefit societies, health maintenance organizations, and health plans under the State's Medicaid managed care program to provide coverage for biomarker testing, beginning on January 1, 2025. Section 23-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires new measures mandating 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, to be referred, via concurrent resolution, to the Auditor for analysis. Section 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, specifies the minimum information required for assessing the social and financial impact of the proposed health insurance coverage mandate in the Auditor's report. This measure requests the Auditor to analyze the proposed mandatory health insurance coverage for biomarker testing in accordance with sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Health and Human Services that are attached to this report, your Committees concur with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 159 and recommend its adoption.

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



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair




JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, Chair



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 159	CPN/HHS	3/22/24		
<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
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett (C)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol (VC)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.				✓
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

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

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SCR 159</b>	Committee Referral: <b>CPN/HHS</b>	Date: <b>03/22/2024</b>
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
 If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312    
  Pass, with amendments 2311    
  Hold 2310    
  Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)				✓
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>

Recommendation:    
 Adopted    
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Distribution:**    
 Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod  
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