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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

**S.C.R. NO. 51, REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY PROTON BEAM THERAPY FOR CANCER TREATMENT.**

Hearing: Monday, March 30, 2026, 1:07 p.m.

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The Office of the Auditor offers comments on S.C.R. No. 51, which requests that our office prepare an impact assessment report in accordance with sections 23-51 and 23-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), on the social and financial effects of mandating health insurance coverage for “medically necessary” proton beam therapy for cancer treatment as proposed by H.B. No. 2145 (2026 Regular Session).

It is our understanding that health interventions are currently covered under health insurance policies issued in the State when recommended by the treating licensed health care provider and determined by the health plan’s medical director to be “medically necessary.” We do not believe the proposed mandate would expand coverage beyond what is currently provided to insureds. As such, **there would be no material social or financial impacts associated with mandating proton beam therapy; we do not believe that it is necessary for our office to assess the social and financial effects of mandating health insurance coverage for medically necessary proton beam therapy for cancer treatment.**



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

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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
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March 30, 2026

**LATE**

**TO:** SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

**FROM:** John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to  
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

**RE:** **SCR 51 – Relating to Proton Beam Therapy**

**HEARING:** Monday, March 30, 2026 @ 1:07 am; Conference Room 225

**POSITION:** SUPPORT INTENT with COMMENTS

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Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports the intent of SCR 51, with comments. Proton Beam therapy centers typically serve a population of at least 3 million persons, making this to some a questionable investment for Hawai'i. However, less expensive models are becoming available and the benefit of this highly focused radiologic therapy for treatment of certain solid tumors, certain other cancers, and possibly most importantly, pediatric cancers should be considered, assuming one such device could be shared by all Hawaii's insurers and health care systems as a statewide and Pacific Island resource.

Thank you for hearing this measure.

■ ----- Jack Lewin, Administrator