

**ACT 124**

H.B. NO. 235

A Bill for an Act Relating to Health.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 251, Session Laws of Hawaii 1997 (Act 251), provided much demanded and much needed amendments to the motor vehicle insurance law to reduce motor vehicle insurance premiums and preserve adequate protection of the rights of drivers. One provision in Act 251 tied all provider fees to the medicare fee schedule used under the workers' compensation law and set the benefit for chiropractic and acupuncture treatments at thirty visits at no more than \$75 per visit. Acupuncture codes were not included in the medicare fee schedule as of the effective date of Act 251, and acupuncturists were therefore placed under the same restrictions as chiropractors. The benefit allowed for acupuncture treatments has not increased in nearly twenty

years, while rates for other services, such as physical therapy and medical office visits, have increased over the years.

The purpose of this Act is to specify that the authorized benefit for acupuncture treatments allowed under personal injury protection benefits provided through motor vehicle insurance shall be tied to the charges, and any subsequent increases in charges, permissible under the workers' compensation supplemental medical fee schedule.

SECTION 2. Section 431:10C-103.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) Acupuncture treatments shall be allowed for no more than thirty visits ~~[at no more than \$75 a visit]~~. The charges for acupuncture treatments under this section shall be tied to the charges, and any subsequent increases in charges, permissible under the workers' compensation supplemental medical fee schedule.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

(Approved July 10, 2017.)