



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
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By

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HB 2223 – RELATING TO INSURANCE

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UH Cancer Center), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** for House Bill 2223. This measure addresses the critical matter of ensuring insurance coverage for biomarker testing which is crucial in advancing the standard of care for individuals facing various diseases and conditions, particularly in the field of oncology where biomarker testing plays a pivotal role in personalized medicine.

The UH Cancer Center is at the forefront of cancer research and patient care, and we firmly believe that the inclusion of biomarker testing coverage in health insurance policies is a significant step towards improving patient outcomes and promoting evidence-based healthcare practices.

Biomarker testing is an invaluable tool in the diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, and ongoing monitoring of diseases or conditions. This testing allows for a more precise and personalized approach to medical care by identifying specific genetic, molecular, or biochemical markers associated with an individual's disease. It enables healthcare providers to tailor treatments based on the unique characteristics of a patient's condition, leading to more effective and targeted interventions. In addition, it is imperative to utilize biomarker testing to circumvent unwanted physical and financial ramifications that may arise as a result of cancer drug therapy. Healthcare providers can not only minimize the risk of treatment-related side-effects, but also reduce the financial burden associated with ineffective therapies. Therefore, the integration of biomarker testing into clinical practice is pivotal in ensuring optimal patient outcomes and fostering a more sustainable healthcare system.

House Bill 2223 is comprehensive in its approach, mandating coverage for biomarker testing when supported by medical and scientific evidence. The criteria outlined in the bill, including FDA-approved or FDA-cleared tests, indications for FDA-approved drugs, warnings and precautions on FDA-approved drug labels, CMS national coverage determinations, and adherence to nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines, ensure that coverage is grounded in rigorous scientific standards.

By requiring insurance coverage for biomarker testing, HB 2223 aligns with the advancements in medical research and the evolving landscape of precision medicine. This not only benefits patients by providing access to cutting-edge diagnostics and treatments but also contributes to the overall improvement of healthcare outcomes in our community.

In conclusion, the UH Cancer Center wholeheartedly supports HB 2223, recognizing its potential to enhance the quality of healthcare delivery in our state. We urge you to consider the positive impact this legislation can have on patient care and to pass this bill for the benefit of all residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.