



## Hawaii Chapter

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March 16, 2010

Measure: **SCR124**, Obesity treatment for children.

Committee on Health, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

Friday, March 19, 2010 @ 2:45 pm, Conference Room 016

Testimony in **support** of SCR 124

Dear Senators Ige, Green and Baker:

SCR124 is desperately needed in Hawaii. In order to ameliorate the obesity epidemic in Hawaii and the resulting tremendous medical costs seen in our adult population, we must intervene during the early years of life when lifelong behaviors are being established. A major impediment towards a proper medical evaluation, prevention and intervention for an overweight child is that health plans have refused to include these types of patient visits to their primary care doctor in their health plan benefits structure. This short-sighted, non-prevention oriented business model is hurting the long term health of our population.

In 2007 the American Academy of Pediatrics issued its guidelines for identifying, evaluating and treating overweight and obese children and adolescents. In that year our chapter issued its "Hawaii Pediatric Weight Management Toolkit" which assists our local pediatricians in implementing the national guidelines. In February of 2010 the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommended that all children six years of age and older be screened for obesity and intervention begun when indicated. Our surgeon general, Dr. Regina Benjamin recently issued "The Surgeon General's Vision for a Fit and Healthy Nation 2010" and addresses the need for physicians to engage in medical evaluations and monitoring of obese children.

SCR124 is the first step in untying the hands of pediatricians and beginning a process that will allow us to take a more proactive and staunch stand against pediatric and adult obesity, a truly silent but deadly chronic disease.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Galen YK Chock MD".

Galen YK Chock MD

President, The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter.