

State and Federal Policy Updates

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Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

- Blake Oshiro, JD, has no relevant financial relationships to disclose.
- Christian Downs, JD, MHA has no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

HSCO Legislative and Political Update

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2022 Legislative Session

- 2022 Hawaii State Legislature convened 1/19/2022 and ended on 5/5/2022
- On behalf of HSCO, monitored and lobbied on several healthcare bills related to mammography insurance coverage insurance coverage, Telehealth, pharmaceutical drugs, and fertility preservation for cancer patients.

2022 – Fertility Preservation

Under Hawaii law, to pass a bill that mandates additional health insurance coverage, the Legislative Auditor must conduct a social and fiscal analysis of the proposed benefit before a bill can be passed.

- Introduced House Bill 2242 and Senate Bill 3308 and introduced HCR 28 and SCR 241
- [SCR241](#) Description: Requesting the auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandatory health insurance coverage for fertility preservation procedures for certain persons who have been diagnosed with cancer and whose cancer or cancer treatment may adversely affect their fertility.
- Passed the legislature. HSCO working along with ASCO and Alliance for Fertility Preservation have been in discussions with the Auditor on the scope and impact
- Provided reports on cost from other states that show cost is a minimal as 1 cent per insured person per healthplan.
- Report is due 20 days before the next legislative session, or 12/30/22

2022 - Mammography

- **HB1774 and SB2635: Description** : Requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to cover mandated services for mammography at least as favorably as coverage for other radiological examinations.
- [SB2635](#) Passed both House and Senate, but died in the final days of session in conference committee
- HSCO Testified in strong favor of the bills,
- Bills are expected to be re-introduced next session

2022 – Mammography – Part 2

- **HCR33: Description:** Requesting the Auditor to conduct a social and financial assessment of proposed mandatory health insurance coverage for early access breast cancer screening
- Passed both House and Senate and ADOPTED.
- HSCO Testified in strong favor of the the resolution to have the coverage changed to follow the screening guidelines issued by leading clinical organizations such as the American College of Radiology, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, and the American Medical Association instead of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). The current standards are based national guidelines from the USPSTF. However, doing so fails to acknowledge the evidence showing women of certain ethnic groups suffer a disproportionately higher rate of breast cancer diagnosis before the age of fifty.
- Bills are expected to be introduced next session

2022 – Telehealth

- Multiple bills were introduced and moved on the issue of telehealth with a wide to narrow scope.
- **HB1980**: **Description:** Permits, but does not require or prohibit, Medicaid, health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to cover telephonic behavioral health services under certain circumstances. Clarifies that telephonic services do not constitute telehealth.
- **Passed the legislature, but was vetoed by the Governor.**
- Although the bill clarifies when telephonic services may be covered, and provides guidance to health insurance providers, the final bill may be interpreted to strictly limit insurance coverage for telephonic services.
- **HSCO Testified in favor of the bills to establish parity for telehealth more broadly,**
- **Bills are expected to be re-introduced next session**

2022 – Pharmaceutical Drugs

- The Legislature looked at the pharmaceutical drug industry to see how there can be better transparency and regulation on the prices of drugs. These bills were aimed at the pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmaceutical benefit managers (PBMs), and health insurance plans.
- Due to the complexity of the issues, none of the bills introduced passed.
- HSCO Testified in strong favor of the bills,
- Bills are expected to be re-introduced next session

2022 – Medical Aid in Dying

[HB1823](#): Description: Authorizes advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to practice medical aid in dying or provide counseling to a qualified patient. Requires an attending provider to make an initial determination in person or via telehealth. Amends the mandatory waiting period between oral requests and the provision of a prescription. Prohibits the disclosure, discovery, or compelled production of information collected or retained pursuant to incidental or routine communication between DOH and qualified patients or providers.

- Died in conference. Expected to be re-introduced next session.

2022 – Elections

- Primary election August 13, 2022
- General election November 8, 2022
- All mail ballots election – mailed out on or about October 21, 2022
 - US Senate
 - Congress
 - Governor/Lieutenant Governor
 - All state legislature – 25 Senate; 51 House

2022 – Election – Governor Prediction

- Lt. Governor Josh Green And Rep. Sylvia Luke (D)
- Fmr. Lt. Governor Duke Aiona And Seaula Junior Tupa`i (R)
 - Green/Luke Will Prevail
 - Supermajority Democratic State
 - Aiona Ran And Lost 2x For Governor
 - Green's Favorables Are Very High
 - As Of 9/26/22: Green \$3.7m Raised \$3.4 M Spent;; Aiona \$170,00 Raised \$100,000 Spent
 - No Media Polling By Star-Advertiser, Civil Beat
 - Mid-sept 17% Green; October 34% Green

2022 – Election – Governor Prediction Green Part 2

- Dr. Green was born in Kingston, New York, and grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- He received his bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and completed his medical training at Pennsylvania State University and the University of Pittsburgh.
- Upon finishing his residency, Dr. Green joined the National Health Service Corps and was stationed in Hawaii in 2000. He began his life's work as a family and emergency room physician in rural hospitals and clinics on Hawaii island (Big Island).

2023 – Healthcare Issues

1. Healthcare Workforce Development – prioritize need to have more professionals working in the medical field, providing incentives and additional educational and training opportunities.
2. Behavioral Health – greater emphasis and resources for treatment.
3. Comprehensive telehealth system throughout the state, especially in rural areas to ensure adequate access

QUESTIONS?

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Federal Legislation/Regulations and Election Outlook

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Federal Legislation/Regulations and Election Outlook

- Three Big Issues to Follow
- Legislation
 - Imminent
 - Lame Duck
- Regulations
 - Payment models
 - Delivery issues
- Taking Action
- Good News

QUESTIONS?