

Testimony on SCR30
Monday, March 30, 1:07 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the committee,

I am Peter Weston Black. My wife and caregiver, Barbara, and I are living in Ninole on the Big Island. Members of the committee, I really wish I had received a brief cognitive assessment when I was 50 years old. Twenty-three years later, I did get a brief assessment. I was by then retired and covered by Medicare. Which was very fortunate. I learned then that I was cognitively impaired and that is when I became an Alzheimer's patient.

Learning that my disease was in a relatively early stage of development allowed us to adjust to this new and frightening reality while I was still relatively functional. Our path has been much more positive than it might have been and we are very grateful for this.

For this reason, I strongly support SCR30, which requests the Auditor to assess the social and financial effects of mandating health insurance coverage for brief cognitive assessments for individuals 50 years of age and older.

I respectfully urge you to support SCR30 so all Hawai'i residents have a better chance at early detection, coordinated care, and support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Peter Weston Black