



February 24, 2026

The Honorable Gregg Takayama
Chair, Committee on Health
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI, 66813

The Honorable Keohokapu-Lee Loy
Vice Chair, Committee on health
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI, 66813

RE: SUPPORT for HB 1971 - Biomarker Testing Coverage

To Chair Takayama and Ranking Member Keohokapu-Lee Loy:

On behalf of the Movement Disorders Policy Coalition (MDPC), I am writing in support of HB 1971. This legislation is critical to expanding and clarifying health insurance coverage for biomarker testing, which plays an increasingly important role in the diagnosis, treatment, management, and ongoing monitoring of patients living with movement disorders.

The [Movement Disorders Policy Coalition](#) (MDPC) serves as a platform from which stakeholders, including health care providers and patients, can provide input on policy decisions impacting patient-centered care for those living with movement disorders. As a coalition of stakeholder groups across the movement disorders space, MDPC advocates at the federal, state, and health plan levels for key health reforms that increase access to personalized care for patients with movement disorders including Parkinson's disease, essential tremor, tardive dyskinesia, Tourette Syndrome, dystonia, ataxia and Huntington's disease.

Neurology is rapidly advancing toward a more precise, personalized approach to care. In movement disorders, biomarkers are emerging as essential clinical tools that can help clinicians distinguish between similar conditions, assess disease progression, and guide treatment decisions. For example, biomarker testing may help differentiate neurodegenerative disorders with overlapping symptoms, identify underlying disease mechanisms, or inform whether a patient is likely to respond to a specific therapy. This information is especially critical for individuals with movement disorders, where diagnosis is often complex, symptoms can evolve over time, and treatment responses vary among patients.

Access to biomarker testing can help clinicians make faster and more accurate diagnoses by providing clear biological information. The utilization of biomarker testing can allow for earlier treatment, better therapy choices, and more effective disease management. For patients with progressive movement disorders, such as Huntington's disease, which causes cognitive decline and other neurological complications, timely diagnosis and targeted care can improve symptom management and enhance quality of life.

Unfortunately, patients in Hawaii continue to face insurance coverage barriers to biomarker testing and individualized treatment approaches. These barriers may delay diagnosis and limit access to the most appropriate therapies for patients with movement disorders. HB 1971 would

help address these challenges by ensuring coverage for medically appropriate biomarker testing, regardless of disease stage, thereby promoting earlier detection, more accurate diagnosis, and more effective treatment planning.

HB 1971 also supports the clinician-patient relationship by ensuring that health care providers have access to the tools necessary to make informed, evidence-based decisions tailored to each patient's unique clinical needs. By ensuring biomarker testing coverage, this legislation would help ensure patients receive timely, appropriate, and personalized care.

On behalf of the Movement Disorders Policy Coalition and our membership, we ask that you support HB 1971 and thank you for your leadership on this important issue. If we can provide further details or answer any questions, please reach out to Payton Marvin at pmarvin@allianceforpatientaccess.org.

Sincerely,

Movement Disorders Policy Coalition

Co-Signing Organizations:

Aimed Alliance
Alliance for Patient Access
American Parkinson Disease Association
Caregiver Action Network
Clinical Neurological Society of America
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Help 4 HD International
HD Reach
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Huntington's Disease Youth Organization
National Ataxia Foundation
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia
Parkinson's Foundation
Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance
Tourette Association of America
The STARR Coalition

CC:

Rep. Alcos Rep. Amato
Rep. Garcia Rep. Hartsfield
Rep. Marten Rep. Olds
Rep. Takenouchi