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January 30, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
House Committee on Health

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2447 – RELATING TO PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION**

Hearing: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 10:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to extend psychotropic medication coverage to all participants in the Medicaid QUEST medical plans by extending the sunset date for their coverage to June 2011.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill to continue open access to psychotropic medications for Medicaid recipients. We do have concerns regarding this bill, as it continues to authorize a sunset date for psychotropic medication coverage to participants in the Medicaid QUEST medical plans. We strongly urge you to amend this bill to delete the sunset date for the QUEST medical plans so that we may provide permanent unrestricted access for Medicaid QUEST clients in need of psychotropic medications, regardless of

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whether they are in the Medicaid Fee-For-Service (FFS) program or the Medicaid QUEST program.

Both the Medicaid FFS program and the QUEST medical plans have implemented clinically-based prescription drug utilization management programs. The QUEST medical plans utilize formularies while the Medicaid FFS program utilizes a Preferred Drug List (PDL).

Currently, there are over 167,000 individuals in QUEST medical plans and approximately 40,000 individuals in the Medicaid FFS program. The majority of the prescriptions filled for these medications for Medicaid recipients will be through the QUEST medical plans.

We request that the Legislature bring equity to all our Medicaid recipients by repealing Section 5 of Act 239, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, as amended by Act 311, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006 and provide permanent open access to psychotropic medications for all Medicaid recipients.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.