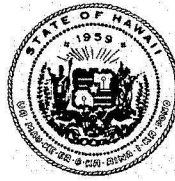


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 7, 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. 3231 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**
Hearing: Thursday, February 7, 2008 8:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to require the State Medicaid QUEST and Fee-For-Service programs to cover chiropractic care with twenty-four visits per calendar year and appropriate State general funds.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services does not support this bill as written. The bill, as written, will statutorily require the Department to cover chiropractic services in the Medicaid QUEST and the Medicaid Fee-For-Service programs effective July 1, 2008, using State funds.

The Department would like to inform the Committee that none of the mandatory or optional Medicaid benefits in our Medicaid programs are mandated by statute as this bill

proposes to do for chiropractic benefits. Therefore, in the event that allocated program funds are insufficient to meet statewide service demands, other Medicaid services may be subject to reductions while chiropractic services must be maintained because this bill, if passed, would mandate chiropractic services.

Also, in order to receive Federal reimbursement, the Department would have to submit an amendment to the Hawaii Medicaid State Plan, which must be approved by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to add chiropractic services as a benefit.

If approval is not received from CMS, and chiropractic services are required to be provided by statute as this bill proposes, State funding will be needed to continue chiropractic services in the QUEST program as well as the Medicaid Fee-For-Service program for the aged, blind or disabled population.

While the Department appreciates the intent of this bill, we respectfully request that if passed, such funding not replace nor adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



Hawaii State Chiropractic Association

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February 5, 2008

THE SENATE

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Josh Green, Chair

Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 7, 2008

TIME: 8:45 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 329

Dear Chairs Shimabukuro and Green, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing **in support of HB 3231**.

My name is Gary Saito and I represent the Hawaii State Chiropractic Association as its President and Executive Director. I have been a practicing chiropractor in the State of Hawaii for more than 20 years. In that time, I have had the privilege of providing medical treatments to thousands of our citizens.

Some of them have chiropractic benefits through their insurance plans. Some of them are able to afford chiropractic care by using their personal finances. Many people, however, are not so fortunate. Chiropractic care and many other services that most of us take for granted are unavailable to them. Yet, statistically, they can be expected suffer the same conditions and disabilities for which others have the means to receive treatments.

Medicaid recipients do not have the benefit or privilege of choosing their health care services. They are limited to those services authorized within the program. They don't have the personal finances to supplement their health care choices. Going outside the program for additional services is not an option for most. Yet, Medicaid recipients, who could benefit from chiropractic care to the same extent as the rest of us, do not have medical coverage for this service.

"Notice" contained in the Chiropractic Section of the Yellow Pages for the Big Island

June 20, 2005

It is time that Medicaid offer chiropractic services, if for no other reason than that chiropractic care could help to improve physical health, increase functional capacity, and prevent disabling conditions that will eventually be far more costly to treat.

More than 25 other states include chiropractic in their Medicaid programs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has reported that chiropractic care comprises only a small proportion of total state Medicaid expenditures in those states. Despite this national assessment of the cost-effectiveness of chiropractic services, Hawaii's Department of Human Services has not joined other states in offering chiropractic care for its eligible beneficiaries in the Med-QUEST program. In study after study, chiropractic has been proven to be an effective treatment for many musculoskeletal conditions where other forms of treatment have failed. By omitting chiropractic services from its program, the Department may be depriving its beneficiaries of an effective treatment that can halt or delay the onset of more serious conditions that result in complex and permanent disabilities.

I urge you to pass HB 3231. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Saito". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent and the last name "Saito" following in a similar style.

Gary Saito, DC