

SB3257

Measure Title:

RELATING TO MEDICAID PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY.

Report Title:

Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility

Description:

Requires the department of human services to provide presumptive eligibility to medicaid or QUEST eligible waitlisted patients. (SD1)

Introducer(s):

HOOSER

Current Referral:

HSP/HTH, WAM



February 13, 2008

To: Chairs Suzanne Chun Oakland and David Ige and Members of the Senate Committees on Human Services & Public Housing and Health
From: Bob Ogawa, President
Hawaii Long Term Care Association
Re: S.B. 3257, SD1, Relating to Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility

The Hawaii Long Term Care Association (HLTCA) supports S.B. 3257, SD1 as a preliminary step toward addressing Hawaii's current hospital waitlist problem.

We would, however, like to make a few comments:

It is our understanding that, except for pregnant women, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) does not endorse the concept of presumptive eligibility. That aside, though, our concerns are: (a) Who becomes the payor in those cases where a resident already taken into a nursing facility is later deemed **not** medicaid-eligible? (b) Further, in such instances, does the State simply absorb the "spent-money" costs, or does it seek reimbursement -- and, if the latter, from whom?

While presumptive eligibility is indeed an option we should entertain, I am not certain that nursing facilities would risk accepting a resident under such uncertain circumstances. The historical "fall through" (eventually-determined non-eligible) rate has been stated as being in the range of 4-6%. With respect to pregnant women, that may amount to a bearable loss, but in a high-cost skilled nursing setting, payment uncertainty in the case of even one resident would be a meaningful financial gamble.

All that said, though, we must move forward and begin to explore all avenues open to us in resolving the waitlist problem. This measure is a good beginning, and we urge its passage.



HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

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TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2008 SESSION

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
 Senate Committee on Health:

From: Gary L. Smith, President
 Hawaii Disability Rights Center

Re: Senate Bill 3257, SD1

Hearing: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 1:25 PM
 Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Members of the Committee on Human Services and Public Housing:
 Members of the Committee on Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting Senate Bill 3257, SD1.

I am Gary L. Smith, President of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, formerly known as the Protection and Advocacy Agency of Hawaii (P&A). As you may know, we are the agency mandated by federal law and designated by Executive Order to protect and advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of Hawaii's estimated 180,000 people with disabilities.

We support this bill because it offers good potential to secure the placement of individuals in community settings. The legislature has seen many examples in the past year or two of the long waitlist for community housing experienced by patients in acute facilities. In addition, a briefing was recently provided by the Healthcare Association on the problems of placing "challenging" patients into community settings. One of the barriers identified has been the delays in processing Medicaid eligibility for these individuals. We support the provision regarding presumptive eligibility. Delays in processing these applications add to the problems of placing these individuals and are an unnecessary source of difficulty. There is no reason to delay these applications. It is our hope that these provisions will help to alleviate the current problem experienced by hospitals as well as their waitlisted patients.



Hawaii Pacific Health

55 Merchant Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • hawaiipacifichealth.org

Wednesday, February 13, 2008 – 1:25pm
Conference Room 016

The Senate Committee on Health

To: The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

The Senate Committee on Human Services & Public Housing

To: The Honorable Suzanne Chun, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA
Executive Vice President

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 3257 SD1 - Relating to Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Members:

My name is Virginia Pressler, Executive Vice President for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH). For more than a century, families in Hawaii and the Pacific Region have relied on the hospitals, clinics, physicians and staff of Hawaii Pacific Health as trusted healthcare providers. Our non-profit integrated healthcare system is the state's largest healthcare provider and is committed to improving the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals -- Kapi`olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapiolani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital -- 18 outpatient centers and a team of 1,100 physicians on the islands of Oahu, Kauai and Lanai.

Hawaii Pacific Health is writing in **strong support of SB 3257 SD 1** which takes steps to solve the long term care problem by establishing a process of Medicaid presumptive eligibility for waitlisted patients.

On any given day there are as many as 275 patients in hospitals across Hawaii who have been treated and are now waiting to be transferred to a long term care facility but who must remain "waitlisted" in a hospital because long term care is not available. Discharge timeframes for waitlisted patients range from days to over a year. This represents a poor quality of life option for the patient, presents an often insurmountable dilemma for providers and patients, and creates a serious financial drain on acute care hospitals with ripple effects felt throughout other healthcare service sectors.

SB 3257 HD1 would establish a Medicaid presumptive eligibility process that is designed to reduce the period of time for determining whether a waitlisted patient qualifies for Medicaid. For financial reasons, Medicaid eligibility is required by many long term care facilities before certain types of patients are admitted. We ask that you pass **SB 3257 SD 1**.

Thank you for your time regarding this measure.

KAPIOLANI
MEDICAL CENTER
AT PALI MOMI



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Straub
CLINIC & HOSPITAL

 **Wilcox Health**