

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 5, 2009

LATE
Testimony

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 705 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

Hearing: Thursday, February 5, 2009, 10:30 AM.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Human Services to provide presumptive eligibility to Medicaid eligible waitlisted patients as has been done for pregnant women and children across the country.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services strongly opposes this bill's proposed presumptive eligibility for waitlisted Medicaid applicants.

This bill would authorize Medicaid payments for a patient transitioning from acute care to long-term care who may not qualify for the Medicaid program. This bill would require the Department to reimburse the provider or the plan for the charges incurred during the period of presumptive eligibility for those patients determined to be ineligible for Medicaid reimbursement. The

placement. A determination for a waitlisted application must be completed within five working days from the date necessary documents are provided. KMU works with Oahu hospitals to identify waitlisted patients to expedite the processing of their applications. According to KMU, they processed 703 applications for nursing home placement from March 2008 to December 2008. Of these applications, 78 were identified by a hospital as an application for a waitlisted patient. KMU processed 17 waitlisted applications (15 were denied) without requesting additional data, 59 applications within five days, and only 2 applications required more than five days. KMU was recently recognized as the Department's 2008 Team of the Year for excellence in providing services to Medicaid long-term care recipients and providers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.