

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 6:31 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: emartinez@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2264 on 1/28/2010 1:50:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 1/28/2010 1:50:00 PM SB2264

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elizabeth Martinez
Organization: Individual
Address: Waikupanaha St. Waimanalo, HI
Phone: 08-259-0223
E-mail: emartinez@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 1/27/2010

Comments:

As a board member of a community health center, I support Hawai'i Primary Care Association's position in favor of this this measure which appropriates funds to restore basic dental services for adults covered by Med-QUEST.

Dental care should be viewed as preventive care for other serious medical conditions which occur as a result of chronic infections in the mouth. These conditions such as diabetes, heart and lung disease, stroke, and low-birth-weight births—conditions that are more complicated and costly to treat than effective, timely oral health care.

Adults covered by Med-QUEST are, by definition, low income and hence unable to pay out of pocket for the often substantial amount of dental care they need. Health centers need financial support to provide this care for this segment of the population. Covering dental services through Med-QUEST is also a good investment because it earns a considerable federal match.

I urge you to pass this measure and restore this essential health service. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Thank you!



HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

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THE SENATE THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

Committee on Human Services

Testimony in Support of S.B. 2264 Relating to Quest Health Care Payments

**Thursday, January 28, 2010, 1:50 P.M.
Conference Room 016**

Chair Chun-Oakland and Members of the Committee:

I am Louis Erteschik, Staff Attorney at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and am testifying in support of this bill.

The elimination of basic adult dental benefits for Medicaid recipients was a very shortsighted undertaking. It is ironic that while parents teach their children to brush their teeth so that they will avoid further health problems, Hawaii, the Health state, has a policy which says that we will not pay for preventive dental care and yet will gladly cover the cost of extracting a tooth that has decayed and rotted because of a failure to receive preventive care.

A recent example on the Big Island illustrates that this is not mere rhetoric. We unfortunately became aware, some months ago, of the case of an individual with developmental disabilities whose tooth became so infected that he died before proper medical attention could be administered, despite being flown by helicopter to Honolulu.

So, when advocates claim that proper oral health is essential to one's overall health and well being, this example should illustrate the truth of that statement. We urge the

legislature to pass this common sense measure and provide this needed protection, so that hopefully no other individuals will suffer the same needless fate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264
Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments
Submitted by: Tanya Aynessazian - Bay Clinic Board Chair
January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

As a Board Member of the Bay Clinic community health center and a patient of its clinics, I strongly support this measure which appropriates funds to restore basic dental services for adults covered by Med-QUEST. This is a critical issue for us as a federally qualified network of community health centers and as a member of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. Bay Clinic is responsible for providing low-cost medical and dental care to the underserved people of Hawaii Island, and we provide care to 16,000 people annually our six health centers in East and South Hawaii Island; which includes one dental clinic and one Mobile Dental Van.

Dental coverage that is limited to emergency-only services threatens the overall health of our patients and our community. We have witnessed first hand the decline in our patients' health with the retraction of Med-QUEST adult dental benefits. Patients who could otherwise receive preventative care and treatment, now must wait until their oral health is of emergency nature is not only dangerous, but it is also not cost effective in the long run. In addition, recent research points to associations between chronic oral infections and diabetes, heart and lung disease, stroke, and low-birth-weight births—conditions that are more complicated and costly to treat than effective, timely oral health care. Further, poor oral health and its impact on a person's appearance are linked to poorer prospects for getting and maintaining employment.

Adults covered by Med-QUEST are, by definition, low income and hence unable to pay out of pocket for the often substantial amount of dental care they need. Thus, we as a community health center serving as the safety net for underserved adults, are unable to meet the challenge because of the high cost of care and shortage of public support for this services. This financial conundrum severely hampers our ability to expand services to meet the needs of both Med-QUEST enrollees and the very large number of other low income people who have no dental insurance. Covering dental services through Med-QUEST is also a good investment because it earns a considerable federal match.

We all urge you to pass this measure and restore this essential health service. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

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Family Health Centers

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The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

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Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Mike Gleason, Bay Clinic Vice Chair

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Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Yvonne Gilbert MPH – Bay Clinic Board Secretary

January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264
Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments
Submitted by: Dixie Kaetsu – Bay Clinic Board Treasurer
January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Bobby Cooper – Bay Clinic Board Member
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Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Blossom DeSilva – Bay Clinic Board Member

January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

As a Board Member of the Bay Clinic community health center, and also as a patient, I strongly support this measure which appropriates funds to restore basic dental services for adults covered by Med-QUEST. This is a critical issue for us as a federally qualified network of community health centers and as a member of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. Bay Clinic is responsible for providing low-cost medical and dental care to the underserved people of Hawaii Island, and we provide care to 16,000 people annually our six health centers in East and South Hawaii Island; which includes one dental clinic and one Mobile Dental Van.

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Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264

Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Raylene Moses – Bay Clinic Board Member

January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

As a Board Member of the Bay Clinic community health center, and also as a patient of Bay Clinic, I strongly support this measure which appropriates funds to restore basic dental services for adults covered by Med-QUEST. This is a critical issue for us as a federally qualified network of community health centers and as a member of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. Bay Clinic is responsible for providing low-cost medical and dental care to the underserved people of Hawaii Island, and we provide care to 16,000 people annually our six health centers in East and South Hawaii Island; which includes one dental clinic and one Mobile Dental Van.

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We all urge you to pass this measure and restore this essential health service. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

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Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264
Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments
Submitted by: Sam Nathan – Bay Clinic Board Member
January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264

Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: **Kay Daub RN,Phd – Bay Clinic Board Member**

January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

As a Board Member of the Bay Clinic community health center, and chair of UH Hilo Nursing School, I strongly support this measure which appropriates funds to restore basic dental services for adults covered by Med-QUEST. This is a critical issue for us as a federally qualified network of community health centers and as a member of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. Bay Clinic is responsible for providing low-cost medical and dental care to the underserved people of Hawaii Island, and we provide care to 16,000 people annually our six health centers in East and South Hawaii Island; which includes one dental clinic and one Mobile Dental Van.

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Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264

Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Dr. Ed Montel MD – Bay Clinic Board Member
January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

As a Board Member of the Bay Clinic community health center, and a physician serving in Hilo, I strongly support this measure which appropriates funds to restore basic dental services for adults covered by Med-QUEST. This is a critical issue for us as a federally qualified network of community health centers and as a member of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. Bay Clinic is responsible for providing low-cost medical and dental care to the underserved people of Hawaii Island, and we provide care to 16,000 people annually our six health centers in East and South Hawaii Island; which includes one dental clinic and one Mobile Dental Van.

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Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264

Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Reverend Johnson Jetton – Bay Clinic Board Member
January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

As a Board Member of the Bay Clinic community health center, a patient of Bay Clinic, and a representative of hundreds of members of my congregation who will be impacted by this bill, I strongly support this measure which appropriates funds to restore basic dental services for adults covered by Med-QUEST. This is a critical issue for us as a federally qualified network of community health centers and as a member of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. Bay Clinic is responsible for providing low-cost medical and dental care to the underserved people of Hawaii Island, and we provide care to 16,000 people annually our six health centers in East and South Hawaii Island; which includes one dental clinic and one Mobile Dental Van.

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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264

Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Paul Strauss - Bay Clinic CEO

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The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

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Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Sarah Naeole - Bay Clinic Administrative Director

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Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264
Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments
Submitted by: Dr. Brian Higa: Bay Clinic Dental Director
January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

As a member of the leadership of Bay Clinic, Inc., the director of the Bay Clinic dental department, and a local dentist working in Hawaii, I strongly support this measure which appropriates funds to restore basic dental services for adults covered by Med-QUEST. This is a critical issue for us as a federally qualified network of community health centers and as a member of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. Bay Clinic is responsible for providing low-cost medical and dental care to the underserved people of Hawaii Island, and we provide care to 16,000 people annually our six health centers in East and South Hawaii Island; which includes one dental clinic and one Mobile Dental Van.

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Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264

Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Dr. Jake Evans – Bay Clinic Medical Director

January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264
Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments
Submitted by: Cory Aguiar – Bay Clinic Finance Director
January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264

Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: **Monica Adams – Bay Clinic Development Director**

January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264

Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: Jason Ferreira – Bay Clinic Information Technology Director

January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264

Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: **Debbie Serville – Bay Clinic Human Resources Director**

January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

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F) 808-961-5678

Hilo

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1178 Kino'ole St.
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P) 808-969-1427
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Ka'u

Family Health Center
95-5583 Mamelaha Hwy
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Kea'au

Family Health Center
16-192 Pihua St.
Kea'au, Hawai'i 96749-8134
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Pāhoa

Family Health Center
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Bldg C, Site A,
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Pāhoa

Women's Health Center
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Pāhoa, Hawai'i 96778-7720
P) 808-965-3038
F) 808-965-9855



Family Health Centers

Senate Committee on Human Services

The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264

Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments

Submitted by: **Charlotte Grimm, APRN – Bay Clinic Clinical Director**
January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

As a member of the leadership of Bay Clinic, Inc., I strongly support this measure which appropriates funds to restore basic dental services for adults covered by Med-QUEST. This is a critical issue for us as a federally qualified network of community health centers and as a member of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. Bay Clinic is responsible for providing low-cost medical and dental care to the underserved people of Hawaii Island, and we provide care to 16,000 people annually our six health centers in East and South Hawaii Island; which includes one dental clinic and one Mobile Dental Van.

Dental coverage that is limited to emergency-only services threatens the overall health of our patients and our community. We have witnessed first hand the decline in our patients' health with the retraction of Med-QUEST adult dental benefits. Patients who could otherwise receive preventative care and treatment, now must wait until their oral health is of emergency nature is not only dangerous, but it is also not cost effective in the long run. In addition, recent research points to associations between chronic oral infections and diabetes, heart and lung disease, stroke, and low-birth-weight births—conditions that are more complicated and costly to treat than effective, timely oral health care. Further, poor oral health and its impact on a person's appearance are linked to poorer prospects for getting and maintaining employment.

Adults covered by Med-QUEST are, by definition, low income and hence unable to pay out of pocket for the often substantial amount of dental care they need. Thus, we as a community health center serving as the safety net for underserved adults, are unable to meet the challenge because of the high cost of care and shortage of public support for this services. This financial conundrum severely hampers our ability to expand services to meet the needs of both Med-QUEST enrollees and the very large number of other low income people who have no dental insurance. Covering dental services through Med-QUEST is also a good investment because it earns a considerable federal match.

We all urge you to pass this measure and restore this essential health service. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.

Board of Directors

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Arc of Hilo

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Hilo Marshallese Ministry

Blossom De Silva
Migrant Education Recruiter
Hawaii Department of Education

Paul Strauss
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Medical Director
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chunOakland5 - Michael

From: Club Friend [thefriendlies5@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 3:23 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Subject: Senate Bill 2264

Letter of testimony for:
Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Senate Bill 2264 is scheduled to be heard on 1/28/10 at 1:50 pm in Conference Room 016, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

To Whom It May Concern:

Since dental coverage was cut from QUEST, individuals have been unable to receive any dental services for prevention or maintenance. The only services that are covered are for an abscessed tooth or the medical procedure to have it removed.

In closing, we would like to support Senate Bill 2264 which would restore adult dental care under QUEST.

Thank you.

Daniel Pimental
Jerry Collado
Genny Moura
Monica Contrades
Laura Miyashiro
Suzette Racca
Frank Estrella
Robert Reitzner
Emmaline Kaili
Dacia Mayfield



HO'OLA LĀHUI HAWAI'I
P.O. Box 3990; Līhu'e, Hawai'i
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Senate Committee on Human Services
The Hon. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Hon. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2264
Relating to QUEST Health Care Payments
Submitted by David Peters, Chief Executive Officer
January 28, 2010 1:50 p.m. Agenda, Room 016

Ho'ola Lahui Hawai'i strongly supports this measure which appropriates funds to restore basic dental services for adults covered by Med-QUEST.

Ho'ola Lahui Hawai'i believes that the restoration of this program will not increase the costs spent on dental care. It is basically a cost shift from emergency services to preventive and restorative care. In other words our billing to the Department of Human Services for emergency visits is not that much less than what we were billing previously for preventive and restorative care—the service has shifted from a preventive/restorative to an emergency visit. As the committee is aware this is not in the best interests of the health of our patients. Primary dental care must not be denied to those who have no means of affording the care.

Medicaid patients were left without coverage except for emergency extractions and infections on August 10, 2009. This was a devastating blow to those most in need of dental care here on Kaua'i. While many of our patients were converted to our sliding fee scale they are still unable to afford to pay even a fraction of the cost of their care due to limited incomes. Many of those patients postponed coming to us for care and are now coming as emergency patients.

It is imperative that this benefit be restored to those most in need of care. We understand the gravity of the budget deficit. We also understand first hand that cost shifting will not assist in meeting the needs of the budget deficit. As you know the current federal match for Medicaid is greater in the current year due to ARRA funding. Please ensure that we take full advantage of that matching fund.

We all urge you to pass this measure and restore this essential health service. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this very critical bill.