



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

February 10, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 759 - RELATING TO PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2011; 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B 759 is to enact an employment training and placement program to develop more effective employment systems for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to require the Department of Human Services to see a Medicaid waiver for funding of the program.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) currently has a Medicaid waiver with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. One of the services in the current Medicaid waiver is Supported Employment. The Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with DHS, is in the process of renewing the current Medicaid waiver. The Supported Employment benefit will continue in the Medicaid waiver renewal. DHS defers details regarding the Supported Employment benefit to DOH.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
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February 10, 2011

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
The Honorable Jo Jordan, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Human Services  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representatives Mizuno and Jordan and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: HB 759 – RELATING TO PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 759**. The purpose of this bill is to enact an Employment Training and Placement Program to develop more effective employment systems for persons with intellectual and DD, and to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to seek a Medicaid waiver for funding for the program.

The Council has the following comments and suggestions with respect to the bill:

1. We appreciate the consideration of placing the Employment Training and Placement Program under Chapter 333E, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The purpose of this chapter is to establish the State Council on DD as the State agency responsible for coordinating services to individuals with DD in Hawaii. Therefore, we must respectfully decline the placement as we are not a direct service providing agency. Furthermore, it states on Page 6, lines 16-17, “the DHS shall seek a Medicaid Waiver to provide funding for services under this section.” This provision may be more appropriate under Chapter 346, Social Services.
2. If the Legislature intends to move this bill, we suggest that language on Page 5, lines 1-2 be amended by deleting the terms, “the mentally ill, and the physically disabled” and replacing it with “individuals with mental illness, and individuals with physical and mental disabilities.” These terms reflect people-first language.

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3. We are actively working with the Department of Health DD Division, self-advocates, family members, service providers, and other stakeholders in the completion of a five-year renewal application for the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services DD Waiver program to the Centers on Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The DD Waiver program provides services and supports to over 2,500 individuals with DD to live in and be contributing members of the community.

One of the waiver services included is habilitation/supported employment (HAB-SE) that provide supports to assist individuals to obtain and sustain employment, such as job development, job coaching, and employment supports and training. The waiver that this bill mentions may be duplicating the provisions of the current DD Waiver in the above mentioned areas relating to employment. Therefore, it may not be feasible and practical to seek another Medicaid waiver.

The Council's priority would be to assure that the DD Waiver is approved by CMS and that DD Division have the necessary State match funds to fully implement the existing DD Waiver.

Overall, the Council supports initiatives to increase employment options and support for individuals with DD and the establishment of an Employment First policy. This is in keeping with one of the goals of the Council's Employment and Education Committee that persons with DD have supports to obtain and sustain employment of their choice.

To this end, the Council has participated in the Hawaii Medicaid Infrastructure Grant, Hawaii State Employment Leadership Network (SELN), and DD Division Provider Action Group on Employment that aim to address issues faced by individuals with DD in obtaining and maintaining employment. The DD Council's Employment and Education Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Hawaii SELN on an as needed basis.

Thank you for your consideration of our suggestions and comments, and for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting the intent of HB 759.

Sincerely,



Liz Ann Salvador  
Chair



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW  
Executive Administrator