



Testimony of
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Before:

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

and

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

February 15, 2011
10:30 am
Conference Room 211

Re: SB 1292 Making An Emergency Appropriation To The Department Of Human Services For Health Care Payments

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1292 that would appropriate \$57,500,000 in state funds and \$96,400,000 in federal funds for fiscal year 2010-2011 to address the shortfall in the Medicaid program.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this bill.

This bill is intended to help make up the shortfall the state has in the area of health care payments under HMS 401. Without this emergency appropriation health plans participating with the Department of Human Services will be required to continue the Quest and QuestExA programs with deferred payments. For some participating plans this can mean delayed payments to providers. Not all providers will provide care for Quest and QuestExA participants, resulting in a disruption of medically necessary services. These delays could further erode the number and kind of providers willing to provide services to the vulnerable population in Medicaid.

We appreciate the legislature's efforts to address this concern and urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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