

SB 425

SD 2



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

Friday March 1, 2011; 9:20 a.m. Conference Room 211

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Morris Mitsunaga, MD, President
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Joseph Zobian, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: SB 425 RELATING TO MEDICAID

The HMA is interested in authorizing and evaluating health and wellness alternatives that reduce the incidence of chronic disease. We look forward to working with other stakeholders to support Medicaid and QUEST recipients in adopting and maintaining healthier lifestyles, and reducing the costs of health care expenditures associated with emergency care and other hospital-based treatments for avoidable chronic diseases.

Integrating nutrition, exercise, and medical best practices not currently covered by health insurance, **such as reimbursement for obesity treatment and prevention**, can be used to achieve significant and positive results for patient health. Education, counseling, and other best practices not currently covered by health insurance can be used to reduce childhood obesity. **JABSOM has a very strong complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) program, which may also be helpful to consult with on the issue of promoting good health and wellness.**

QUEST currently reimburses at below cost and is very administratively burdensome. Because Physicians are often unable to have their treatments approved by QUEST plans, and experience much difficulty as a result of denied payment, there is a severe access to care crisis for our States QUEST population and our neighbor islands, which have a high population of QUEST patients.

The HMA agrees with the legislature that it would be prudent to establish a legislative task force to examine issues relating to Medicaid shortfalls, and to work toward a goal of preventing future shortfalls in the program. **The HMA is very grateful to the legislature for the opportunity to work on these important problems in the joint legislative task force on Medicaid.**

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 10:34 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB425 on 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM
Attachments: Treating.bmp; People Over Politics.jpg

Testimony for WAM 3/1/2011 9:20:00 AM SB425

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Organization: The Mestizo Association
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2011

Comments:
Chair, Senate WAM Committee
Honorable Committee Members

We support SB 425 SD2 RElating to Medicaid (Wellness Pilot Program).

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Chair and Editor
The Mestizo Association
(Kalihi Valley)