



**HPCA**

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

**LATE  
Testimony**

**House Committee on Human Services**

The Hon. John Mizuno, Chair

The Hon. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

**House Committee on Health**

The Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1724**

**Relating to Health and Human Services**

**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer**

**Thursday, February 2, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Room 329**

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, **supports the intent of House Bill 1724** which requires presumptive eligibility in Medicaid for waitlisted long term care patients and a study to address inefficiencies in the existing Medicaid application processing system.

Community health centers support the concept of presumptive eligibility for Medicaid applicants who meet a defined threshold criterion. With regard to Section 3 of this measure, the HPCA strongly supports such a study. According to the March 2011 Hawai'i State Medicaid Quality Control Semi-Annual Report the majority of eligibility errors are caused by agency error versus client error. The report recommends focusing error reduction strategies in the QExA caseload because although 37.6% of the samples in this evaluation were QExA cases, they were responsible for 84.1% of the total misspent funds.

We urge you to pass this measure, and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Conference Room 329  
February 2, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

**Supporting HB 1724: Relating to Health and Human Services**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including all acute care hospitals, as well as long term care facilities, home care agencies, and hospices. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 40,000 people. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1724, which creates a presumptive eligibility process designed to reduce the number of patients in acute care hospitals who are waitlisted for long term care and to place them in more appropriate care settings.

On any given day there are an average of 150 patients in Hawaii's hospitals who have been treated so that they are well enough to be transferred to long term care, but who are waitlisted because long term care is not available. Waitlisting is undesirable because it represents an inappropriate quality of care for the patient and creates a serious financial drain on hospitals. Waitlisted patients also unnecessarily occupy hospital beds that could otherwise be used by those who need acute care. Patients may be waitlisted for a matter of days, weeks, or months, and in some cases over a year.

The Healthcare Association has advocated for solutions to the waitlist problem since 2007, when it sponsored SCR 198, which directed the Association to study the problem and propose solutions. The Association subsequently created a task force for that purpose, which studied the problem, wrote a report, and submitted it to the Legislature. Since then the Association has sponsored two measures that have been designed to:

- (1) Promote the movement of waitlisted patients out of acute care;
- (2) Reduce unpaid costs incurred by hospitals and free up hospital resources so that they can be used to treat those who need that higher level of care; and
- (3) Enable long term care facilities to accept waitlisted Medicaid patients with complex medical conditions while addressing the additional costs related to their care.

The two waitlist bills sponsored by HAH have advanced further in the Legislature each year since they were first introduced, and last year they both went to conference. HAH is again sponsoring these bills in 2012. One bill addresses Medicaid payments to hospitals and long term care facilities, and this bill addresses the Medicaid eligibility process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1724.

## Lehua Kinilau

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:19 AM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Cc:** Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1724 on 2/2/2012 10:00:00 AM

**LATE**  
testimony

Testimony for HUS/HLT 2/2/2012 10:00:00 AM HB1724

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com](mailto:Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

# LATE Testimony

Testimony for HUS/HLT 2/2/2012 10:00:00 AM HB1724

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Scott Wall  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [robertscottwall@yahoo.com](mailto:robertscottwall@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. It only begins to correct the cuts that have occurred over the last few years.