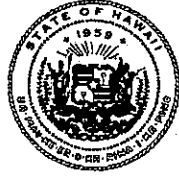


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA MCMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 6, 2012

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2200 - RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2012; 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide vision services as a benefit in the Medicaid Program.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department supports the appreciates the intent of this bill but respectfully must oppose this bill at this time. Given the State's current fragile economy, it would not be prudent to pursue a general fund appropriation that will be required for this bill.

The Department looked at the Medicaid covered benefits and had to make difficult decisions regarding which services to continue to provide and which services to reduce or eliminate. The Department sought to preserve benefits for the more vulnerable populations of children, pregnant women, and aged or disabled adults; as well as those benefits with the greatest impact on reducing morbidity and mortality for the other adults. After gathering community input statewide, the Department eliminated optometry services for the segment of the population that it was felt would be most likely to be able to afford optometry services.

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The elimination of optometry services and glasses in the Medicaid program affects only non-disabled adults. However, this population will still be able to receive ophthalmology services for the treatment of eye disease. Children, individuals over age 65 years, and individuals with disabilities have no change in eye care coverage and will still be able to access and obtain the full range of optometry services and eyeglasses.

Restoration of the optometry services for the affected population would require \$838,782 in general funds, a revised number based on enrollment increases and proposed benefit expansion for adults in QUEST-ACE and QUEST-Net to be the same as for those in QUEST.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. John Mizuno, Chair

The Hon. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2200

Relating to Human Services

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 6, 2012, 8:30 a.m., Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association supports House Bill 2200, Relating to Human Services, which will appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services so as to maximize federal matching funds available for adult vision services. The deterioration of adult vision often directly correlates diabetes, heart disease and other diseases with high mortality rates, as well as impacts the vitality of a healthy society. The maintenance of vision services is not simply a quality of life measure, it directly translates into securing gainful employment, maintaining familial obligations and bolstering communities in Hawaii.

We urge you to pass this bill out of committee and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony for HUS 2/6/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2200

Conference room: 329

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Scott Wall

Organization: Individual

E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com

Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments:

Testimony for HUS 2/6/2012 8:30:00 AM HB2200

Conference room: 329

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Brenda Kosky

Organization: Individual

E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com

Submitted on: 2/4/2012

Comments: