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PATRICIA MCMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
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February 2, 2012

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

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2792 - RELATING TO MEDICAID

Hearing: Thursday, February 2, 2012; 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to authorize the Department of Human Services to provide medical assistance for dialysis, chemotherapy, and other cancer treatments, inpatient and outpatient physician visits, and drug prescriptions.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) opposes this bill because this bill would limit the benefits provided by DHS.

If this bill were to apply to Medicaid, it would significantly reduce benefits as DHS covers dialysis, chemotherapy and other cancer treatment without limitation; has no limits on physician visits; and has no limitation on monthly prescriptions.

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 2792

Relating to Medicaid

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 2, 2012, 10 a.m., Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, supports the intent of House Bill 2792 which authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide medical assistance for dialysis, chemotherapy, and other cancer treatments, inpatient and outpatient physician visits, and drug prescriptions.

Currently, 48% of community health centers patients are enrolled in Medicaid and 25% are currently uninsured. As such, the Primary Care Association supports the intent of this bill but would like a more definitive statement made as to the particular individuals encompassed by this measure, be they Medicaid, uninsured patients, or potentially even commercially insured individuals.

We urge you to pass this measure out of committee so as to further this important discussion. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 1, 2012

House Committee on Human Services
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

House Committee on Health
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Hearing:

State Capitol Room 329
February 2, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

HB 2792 – Relating to Medicaid

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2792, which authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide medical assistance for dialysis, chemotherapy, and other cancer treatments, inpatient and outpatient physician visits, and drug prescriptions.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service.

Access to care for low income individuals has always been a great concern to the Society. This expansion of medical assistance could provide better patient outcomes for those individuals who are in greater need of treatment options and services due to income levels and insurance cover ages. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide this testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cory Chun".

Cory Chun
Government Relations Director