

LATE

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:31 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2310 on 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2310

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

LATE

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:14 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2310 on 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM

Categories: Red Category

Testimony for HMS 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2310

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Consumer Family & Youth Alliance
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

January 31, 2012

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2310 - RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Tuesday, January 31, 2012; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, 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 fiscal situation, 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.

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.