



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 28, 2012

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

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

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, 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 overall concept of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Supplemental Budget.

The Department reviewed optional Medicaid benefits and had to make difficult decisions regarding which services to continue to provide and which services to reduce or eliminate. The Department sought, in making its decision, 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.



HPCA

HAWAI'I PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2310

Relating to Human Services

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 28, 2012 9:00 a.m., Room 211

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association supports Senate Bill 2310, 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.



TO: The Honorable David Ige, Chair Ways and Means
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Sheila Beckham, RD, MPH
CEO Waikiki Health Center

DATE: February 23, 2012

RE: SB 2310 Adult Vision Services

On behalf of Waikiki Health Center, I urge you to support the inclusion of adult optometric services as a covered service under Medicaid.

It is imperative that adults who require vision correction have access to vision screening, diagnosis and corrective eye wear. In order to obtain and maintain employment; in order to remain productive members of society; it is imperative that individuals requiring vision correction receive these cost-effective services.

I encourage you to support funding for these services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





Waimānalo Health Center
Ola Hāloa
The Sustaining of Life

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The Committee on Ways and Means:

The Honorable David Ige, Chair

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2310

Relating to Human Services

February 28, 2012 at 9:00 a.m., Room 211

Submitted by May Akamine, RN, MS, Executive Director

Waimānalo Health Center (WHC) strongly supports SB 2310 which appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to match federal funds allocated to the State for Medicaid benefits dedicated to adult vision services.

As noted in the bill, vision is an important aspect of health. Without proper vision, adults won't be able to get jobs, pay bills, and be productive members of society, which may increase the burden to the State to support these individuals. Furthermore, advanced eye disease can cause partial to complete blindness and, eye diseases, such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts, etc., are primary indicators of diseases with high morbidity and mortality rates. These eye diseases can be detected and addressed with regular eye exams which can minimize the risk of morbidity/mortality and the future costs of treatment associated with these diseases.

According to the 2007 CDC data, vision disability is one of the top 10 disabilities among adults ages 18+ years with prevalence of <=200% of the federal poverty level at more than 10 times that of the general population, i.e. 26% as compared with 2-3% respectively. In addition, CDC has expressed a growing concern that the prevalence of age related eye diseases is expected to double by 2030 with the prevalence of glaucoma among people with diabetes expected to increase twelve fold by 2050. Because many eye diseases and disorders have no symptoms or early warning signs, dilated eye examinations should be performed at regular intervals to detect changes in the retina and/or optic nerve. Optometrists can view the eye for subtle changes and initiate treatment at the right time, if needed, to decrease morbidity/mortality and associated costs.

WHC, which serves a Medically Underserved Population (Native Hawaiians) in a Health Professions Shortage Area, is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system providing quality preventive and primary health care for Waimānalo, Ko'olaupoko, and beyond targeting the poor, uninsured, etc. We served 4,083 people in 22,275 visits in 2011; 26.4% of all our patients had QUEST Medicaid. We are planning to initiate vision services if start-up expenses can be subsidized. Continuation of vision services is a must for this to occur.

We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given community health centers (CHCs), patients, and communities. We urge your continued support of CHCs, WHC, and **SB2310** which provides vital funds needed for essential vision services for QUEST patients. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to show our full support of this measure. ALOHA!



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Submitted by Christina Lee, MD, Medical Director

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Submitted by Pi'ilani Kai, MSW, Development Director

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