

SCR 147/SR 82

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO AMEND THE FEDERAL SECTION 1115 WAIVER GRANTED TO HAWAII TO RAISE THE MEDICAID INCOME ELIGIBILITY CEILING TO THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

Report Title: Medicaid; QUEST; Department of Human Services

Description:

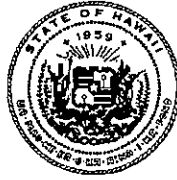
Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): GREEN

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA MCMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

March 27, 2012

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.C.R. 147/S.R. 82 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO AMEND THE FEDERAL SECTION 1115 WAIVER GRANTED TO HAWAII TO RAISE THE MEDICAID INCOME ELIGIBILITY CEILING TO THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 27, 2012; 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Concurrent Resolution is to request the Department of Human Services to amend the Section 1115 waiver to raise the Medicaid income eligibility ceiling to 300% of the federal poverty level.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly opposes this resolution. The Department's QUEST and QExA enrollment was at approximately 286,000 as of February, 2012. The Department has continued to see an increase in the numbers for several years with no leveling off or decrease. The DHS cannot support the intent of the resolution as the Department does not have the funds to support the resulting increase to the Medicaid enrollment.

The increase in the income eligibility criteria will result in increased expenditures for the Department that has not been budgeted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



March 27, 2012
10:00am
Conference Room 224

To: The Honorable Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Paula Arcena, Director of Public Policy
Robert Toyofuku, Government Affairs

Re: SCR 147 / SR 82 Requesting the Department of Human Services to Amend the Federal Section 1115 Waiver Granted to Hawaii to Raise the Medicaid Income Eligibility Ceiling to Three Hundred Percent of Federal Poverty Level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

AlohaCare supports the intent of the measure to strengthen Hawaii's health safety net.

We would like to suggest the committee consider requesting an analysis by the Department of Human Services the Basic Health Plan (BHP) under the federal Affordable Care Act, as soon as possible once federal rules have been issued.

Preliminary information suggests BHP would provide new federal funding for health insurance coverage for Hawaii families with income between 133%-200% of the federal poverty level. Until recently, this is a group of approximately 4,500 individuals was covered by the Hawaii Medicaid QUEST-ACE and QUEST-NET program. The ACA Basic Health Option could restore benefits to this population, with generous federal financial support to the State.

Additionally, BHP specifically includes eligibility for lawfully present non-immigrants who are under the age of 65 and not eligible for Medicaid. A preliminary opinion from the National Immigration Law Center, obtained by AlohaCare, indicates that COFA migrants, who are currently not eligible for federal Medicaid funding, would be eligible for coverage under the Basic Health Plan. That would be a tremendous financial relief to the State of Hawaii, because a substantial portion, if not all of the cost of the Basic Health Plan premiums are expected to be paid by the federal government. Currently, the state bears the entire burden of Medicaid coverage for COFA migrants because of recent court rulings.

In order to implement this program, the State of Hawaii would need to proactively select this option. We have called this opportunity to the attention of the Governor and Pat McManaman, Director of the Department Human Services.

AlohaCare is a non-profit, Hawaii based health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's community health centers to serve low-income families and medically vulnerable members of our community through government sponsored health insurance programs. We serve beneficiaries of Medicaid and Medicare on all islands.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE

FROM: HAWAII HEALTH AUTHORITY
MEMBER, MARION POIRIER

SUBJECT: SCR 147/ SC 82

WHEN; TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012 at 10:00 A.M.

WHERE: HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 224

DEAR CHAIR CHUN OAKLAND, VICE CHAIR IHARA, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES:

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

I am Marion Poirier, M.A., R.N., a member of the Hawaii Health Authority. We are in strong support of SCR 147/ SR 82 Requesting the Department of Human Services to Amend the Federal Section 1115 Waiver Granted to Hawaii to Raise the Medicaid Income Eligibility Ceiling to Three Hundred Percent of the Federal Poverty Limit.

As written, SCR 147/ SR 82 will enhance critical access to necessary care, treatment, and support of our Hawaii citizens. The rationales included reflect changing times and circumstances that justifies and validates the need for this resolution.

Thank you for hearing this topic of mutual import and concern. Your favorable consideration of would be greatly appreciated by all concerned parties.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: jorywatland@att.net
Subject: Testimony for SCR147 on 3/27/2012 10:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, March 25, 2012 10:01:49 PM

Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 10:00:00 AM SCR147

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jory Watland
Organization: Hawaii Health Authority
E-mail: jorywatland@att.net
Submitted on: 3/25/2012

Comments:

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Human Services Committee:
My name is Jory Watland and I am a member of the Hawaii Health Authority Board. I urge your support for SCR 147.

It is vitally important that the State of Hawaii reinstate the 1115 Waiver granted by the Federal government to Hawaii in 1994. If all residents under 300% of poverty were covered with comprehensive health care, Hawaii will move within the range of having universal health care for all - a goal that the Legislature established for the Hawaii Health Authority by statute in 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR147 on 3/27/2012 10:00:00 AM
Date: Sunday, March 25, 2012 2:14:39 PM

Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 10:00:00 AM SCR147

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: United Self Help
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Subject: Testimony for SCR147 on 3/27/2012 10:00:00 AM
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:10:56 PM

Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 10:00:00 AM SCR147

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wailua Brandman APRN-Rx BC FAANP
Organization: Individual
E-mail: wailua@aya.yale.edu
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments: