



KOKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES

2239 N. SCHOOL STREET ♦ HONOLULU, HAWAÏI 96819 ♦ TEL: 808-791-9400 ♦ FAX:
808-848-0979 ♦ www.kkv.net

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

3/28/2014

Dear Leaders and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB1752 HD1 SD1. I would like to focus my comments on the restoration of Adult Dental benefits to Medicaid Recipients.

Last year KKV provided high quality oral health services to well over 1000 adults who were on Medicaid and for whom we were (with only emergency exceptions) unable to receive Medicaid payments for those services. These patients are not coming to us for cosmetic dental reasons, but are instead suffering from both acute and chronic oral health conditions that cause them tremendous pain and suffering, loss of work, poor prospects for finding employment and put them at risk for other serious chronic health conditions. Frankly, it is inconceivable to me that just because through historical accident the mouth was separated from the body into medicine versus dentistry, that we should tolerate a system in which someone can get emergency care for a paper cut but not be able seek care for truly serious conditions in one of the most important organs in the body, the mouth!

By some accounts, trips to our emergency rooms for dental problems are amongst the most important category of *preventable* emergency room visits amongst adult Medicaid recipients. As you know, these trips to the ER for dental cost Hawaii a lot of money and do not lead to appropriate care. You probably also know by now that Hawaii ranks #1 in the United States for poor oral hygiene amongst children. We cannot continue to imagine that there is no connection between adult dental coverage and children's access to care. Naturally parents with no history themselves of being able to access dental care are less likely to make sure their children do.

Please find a way to restore a Medicaid Dental benefit. This money will be matched by Federal dollars, will save money on unnecessary trips to the emergency room, will help to improve not just adults' oral health but that of their children. And will alleviate an awful lot of needless suffering in our communities! Please remember that good nutrition, a warm smile, our ability to communicate with one another begin with the mouth. Medicaid recipients deserve better than being told "we can't afford to help you".

Providing Medical & Dental Services, Health Education, Family Planning, Perinatal, WIC and Social
Services to

Kalihi Valley residents since 1972. Neighbors being neighborly to neighbors.

Thank you for your support for the many thousands of Medicaid recipients whose health will benefit from this bill.

David D Derauf MD MPH



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sbeckham@waikikihealth.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1752 on Apr 2, 2014 09:20AM
Date: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 10:09:14 AM

HB1752

Submitted on: 4/1/2014

Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2014 09:20AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheila Beckham	Waikiki Health	Support	No

Comments: Waikiki Health supports HB1752. With 88% of its patients either uninsured or on Medicaid, funding for the uninsured and support for outreach eligibility. Funding for restoration of behavioral health services will enable many of our patients with substance abuse and behavioral health conditions to seek treatment and move toward more productive lives. Likewise with 90% of our patients lacking dental insurance, the majority of our patients have received no dental care since 2009. Finally, funding for the CHC SPA using a 9:1 match with federal funds (and the CHC special fund) will enable patients with targeted chronic conditions to receive treatment for these conditions. Thanks you for the opportunity to submit testimony,.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1752 HD1 SD1 Relating to Health

Submitted by Alison Rowland-Ciszek, student, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, April 2, 2014, 9:20 AM, Room 211

Aloha to you, and thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1752 HD1 SD1. I am writing to express my support of community health centers (CHCs) and the vital work they do serving the people of Hawaii. This bill represents an innovative way to leverage the funds available in the Affordable Care Act to meaningfully improve both the number of people able to receive high quality health care at CHCs, and the comprehensiveness of the care they will receive.

This bill demonstrates health centers' dedication to strengthening the safety net and maintaining the robust quality of care that CHCs offer. Community health center patients are often beset by a myriad of challenges and barriers: linguistic, financial, cultural, geographic, and so forth. Poverty and the complications that come with it make these patients very complex and, at times, difficult to treat. **CHCs are specialists in reaching the hard-to-reach, and treating the complex patients.** Their approach of outreach, ancillary services, comprehensive care, and referral management provide the specific kind of care needed to treat those in our community most in need.

The restoration of oral health benefits for adults in Medicaid is long overdue. Oral health is not a separate issue from medical health, any more than a mouth can be separated from a body. Waiting until an oral health issue becomes a medical emergency is not only illogical, it is cruel to the affected individual and extremely expensive to the system.

Behavioral health, too, is inextricably woven into the fabric of a healthy life, but for too long has been relegated to a separate and unequal status. We ignore the importance of behavioral health needs in our society and our streets at our peril. Once again, with their integrated, health home orientation and in-house behavioral health services, CHCs maintain a standard of care that addresses the needs of the whole person, in a continuous and comprehensive manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.