



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
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March 25, 2014

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 1754 HD 2 SD 1 – RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB 1754 HD 2 SD 1**. This bill establishes and appropriates funds for implementing a Medicaid buy-in program for individuals with disabilities who are working to maintain their health care services. A Medicaid buy-in program would protect workers with disabilities from losing their medical benefits and supports.

Act 200, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, established a joint legislative Task Force to assist in exploring the development and possible implementation of a Medicaid buy-in program for working individuals with disabilities based on Hawaii's current Medicaid income and asset limits subject to approval of the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Council is a member of the Task Force and has been engaged in discussions on implementing a Medicaid buy-in program for individuals with disabilities.


HB 1754 HD 2 SD 1 is recognized as a work in progress and represents the input from the Task Force. The intent of the bill would encourage all State agencies working with citizens to identify and remove barriers to employment for persons with disabilities and to encourage individuals with disabilities to gain employment. It would also provide outreach and training about the Medicaid buy-in program.

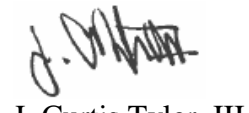
The Honorable David Y. Ige
Page 2
January 25, 2014

We support initiatives such as the Medicaid buy-in program that provides opportunity for individuals with disabilities to work and maintain their health care benefits. We appreciate the Legislature's involvement with the Task Force and look forward to our continued work with the Task Force as this bill moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 1754 HD 2 SD 1.**

Sincerely,


Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator


J. Curtis Tyler, III
Chair

Community Alliance for Mental Health

March, 25, 2014

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To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Re: HB1754, HD2, SD 1

Aloha Chair Ige and the members of the committee,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help we support the passage of HB1754, HD2, SD 1.

A Medicaid Buy-In is a necessary part of our state's health care transformation. We are faced with a shortage of medical personal. We are also faced with a disabled population that is limited in their ability to achieve personal growth.

A Medicaid Buy-In is a win-win for us. It will allow for para-professional medical workforce development by utilizing those members of the disabled population that want to grow and return to the workforce but require the continued access to certain ancillary services available as a Medicaid patient but not covered under regular insurance plans.

Not only is this an evidence based practice but Hawai'i is one of only five states yet to implement the Medicaid Buy-In. While there appears to be some cost to the state you must remember that that cost is already being spent to cover the disabled population. Not only that but we are investing in helping to grow an new taxpayer.

Therefore we strongly support the passage of HB1754, HD2, SD 1. After seven years of negotiations it's time.

Scott Wall
Vice President for Policy
Community Alliance for Mental Health

Tuesday – March 25, 2014 – 9:05am
Conference Room 211

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

From: George Greene
President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 1754, HD2, SD1 — Relating to Persons with Disabilities

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a 116-member organization that includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the majority of long term care facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospice programs, as well as other healthcare organizations including durable medical equipment, air and ground ambulance, blood bank and respiratory therapy. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii’s residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii’s economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1754, HD2, SD1, which would establish a Medicaid buy-in program for workers with disabilities. The purpose of the Medicaid buy-in program for workers with disabilities is to support and encourage the employment of disabled individuals—and to promote all of the concomitant benefits to the state of having all of its citizens engaged in meaningful and gainful employment—by expanding their access to Medicaid.

HB 1754, HD2, SD1, would support the employment of individuals with disabilities by improving their access to quality healthcare, allowing them to seek gainful employment without the worry of losing healthcare coverage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1754, HD2, SD1.



HPCA

HAWAII 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 HB 1754, HD2, SD1

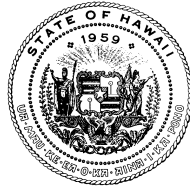
Relating to Persons with Disabilities

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

March 25, 2014, 9:00 am, Room 211

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 1754, which seeks to establish and appropriate funds for a state Medicaid buy-in program. The HPCA is a strong supporter of this program, as it enables individuals with disabilities to become or further pursue employment opportunities while at the same time ensuring those individuals retain full access to needed benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

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Senate Committee on Ways and Means

HB 1754, HD2, SD1, Relating to Persons with Disabilities

**Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

March 25, 2014

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this measure to develop a Medicaid Buy-
2 in option for persons with disabilities.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department requests funding of \$100,000.00 for an initial pilot program
4 beginning July 1, 2014 to the Developmental Disabilities Division to expand the Long-Term Adult
5 Supports and Resources (LASR) program for ten persons with developmental disabilities that obtain
6 employment and are not eligible for Medicaid. The Department requests an additional \$100,000.00 be
7 appropriated to the University of Hawaii Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) to work with key
8 stakeholders and to design a proposed pilot program for consumers with mental health needs. The Adult
9 Mental Health Division (AMHD) in collaboration with CDS will design this pilot to serve the needs of
10 persons with severe mental illness that receive behavioral health services from AMHD and are not
11 eligible for Medicaid. The AMHD pilot program will be projected to begin July 1, 2015.

12 The long term fiscal implications to the Department of Health are lowered costs for Home and
13 Community Based Services for persons already receiving services within the developmental disabilities
14 program as persons are able to be employed and less dependent upon day services. The Department of
15 Health may experience an unknown increase in eligible participants in the AMHD pilot program and

1 must address the specialized behavioral support needs of these consumers and coordinate their mental
2 health services. This can be most expeditiously accomplished with support from the University of
3 Hawaii Center for Disabilities Studies. The Department of Health defers to the Department of Human
4 Services on the total long term costs of the bill upon the Medicaid Buy-In program.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** Employment is a key determinant of self determination and quality of life
6 for persons with disabilities and a priority goal for the Department. This measure will increase
7 opportunity for persons being served by the Developmental Disabilities Division to sustain employment
8 without losing their other supports in the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services program.
9 Similarly for AMHD, the purpose is to provide safety net services for those entering the workforce or
10 whose insurance coverage is inadequate to address their needs for time limited supports.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.