



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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

February 18, 2016

**TO:** The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Chair  
The House Committee on Human Services

**FROM:** Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

**SUBJECT: HB 2717 RELATING TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

Hearing: Thursday, February 18, 2016, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the opportunity to testify and offers comments on the bill.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to require the Director of Human Services to apply annual cost of living increases to the income and asset thresholds for Medicaid eligibility.

The Department supports efforts to ensure continued coverage for those who are most vulnerable. The Hawaii Medicaid program, Med-QUEST, already allows for annual adjustments to the Medical Assistance standard using the federal poverty level (FPL). For the last two years, the FPL has increased approximately 1% per year. The FPL used is specifically calculated for Hawaii, and is usually higher than the 48 contiguous States.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.