

SCR76

Measure Title: REQUESTING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND HEALTH PLANS TO GATHER DATA REGARDING THE USE OF PUBLICLY FUNDED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

Report Title: Medical Assistance Programs; Homelessness

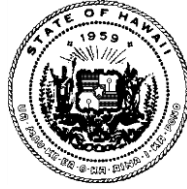
Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH/HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, ESPERO, GALUTERIA, HARIMOTO, KIDANI, K. RHOADS, S. Chang, Ihara, Kim, Nishihara, Ruderman, Shimabukuro, Taniguchi, Wakai



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

March 29, 2017

TO: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 76 – REQUESTING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND HEALTH PLANS TO GATHER DATA REGARDING THE USE OF PUBLICLY FUNDED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.**

Hearing: March 29, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent and supports the resolution.

PURPOSE: The purpose of Senate Continuing Resolution 76 is to request that healthcare providers and health plans gather data regarding the use of publicly funded medical assistance programs by persons experiencing homelessness by using the ICD-10 diagnoses codes for homelessness when they are medically indicated. The State is requested to work with healthcare providers and health plans to increase awareness and promote the appropriate use of the ICD-10 diagnoses codes; and to use data regarding the utilization of healthcare by homeless individuals to explore creative and innovative solutions to address homeless individuals' healthcare needs.

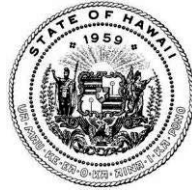
As the resolution notes, homelessness is a critical societal issue that has far-reaching effects. It is also well-known that chronically homeless individuals suffer from many complex health conditions that cannot be addressed without housing, and vice versa, the individuals are

unable to obtain and retain housing without the social and health wrap-around supports of health related permanent supportive housing.

It is also clear that the need for data from various sectors is essential not only for the immediate case management and health needs of the individuals who are homeless, but also for evaluation, analysis and to enable insights that can be used to design innovative solutions.

The use of the ICD-10 diagnoses codes is one method that can be used to gather more comprehensive information on the health needs of homeless individuals. This can be used to create a more detailed and comprehensive picture of the health conditions as well as the healthcare resources being used to treat individuals who are homeless. Additionally, the information can be useful to evaluate different innovative and creative solutions that our community can bring to bear to help address this serious issue plaguing our state.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this resolution.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 29, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

**SUBJECT: SCR 76 – REQUESTING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND HEALTH PLANS TO
GATHER DATA REGARDING THE USE OF PUBLICLY FUNDED MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: March 29, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this resolution.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to request that healthcare providers and health plans utilize the ICD-10 diagnoses codes for homelessness to gather data regarding the use of publicly funded medical assistance programs by persons experiencing homelessness. The resolution also requests the state to work with healthcare providers and health plans to increase awareness of the ICD-10 codes.

While the ICD-10 diagnosis classification system includes diagnoses codes for homelessness (Z59.0) and housing instability (Z59.1), these codes are rarely used by hospitals. Increased utilization of these codes by hospitals and healthcare providers will result in more complete data to inform policy and the allocation of resources to address homelessness.

The Coordinator is committed to working together with the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Human Services (DHS) to use available healthcare utilization data to explore creative and innovative solutions to address homelessness. Currently, there are a number of efforts already underway to address the critical intersection between healthcare and

homelessness. For example, the DHS Med-QUEST Division is currently pursuing an amendment to its 1115 Medicaid waiver, which would expand eligibility for case management and supportive services for Medicaid-eligible individuals that are identified as chronically homeless. The increased use of data available through better use of the ICD-10 codes will enable similar collaborative and innovative efforts to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

March 29, 2017/10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Commerce Consumer Protection and Health

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: SCR 76 – Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care. Its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox – specialize in innovative programs in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care, bone and joint services and more. Hawai'i Pacific Health is recognized nationally for its excellence in patient care and the use of electronic health records to improve quality and patient safety.

I am writing in support of SCR 76 which requests healthcare providers and health plans to gather data regarding the use of publicly funded medical assistance programs by persons experiencing homelessness. HPH is willing to participate in the data gathering, and is interested in being included in any discussions that may arise through the process.

Homelessness continues to be one of the most challenging issues in our community, both in terms of its fiscal and health care implications. With appropriate and current data regarding the utilization of publicly funded medical assistance programs by individuals experiencing homelessness, leaders, stakeholders and community members may be in a better position to make informed decisions regarding the allocation of

resources and services necessary to assist the homeless. Additionally, we as a state will have the tools necessary to formulate meaningful public policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

March, 24, 2017

To: Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker-Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara-Vice Chair

To: Committee on Human Services
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Subject: RE: SCR 76- REQUESTING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND HEALTH PLANS TO GATHER DATA REGARDING THE USE OF PUBLICLY FUNDED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

Good Afternoon: Chair and Vice Chair:

My name is Liz Brown and I am student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii. I am in support of this bill. It is essential that data be collected to determine what actual public funds are used for medical assistance for the homeless. The data collected could serve as a tool to determine the needs this population faces. Having the homeless properly diagnosed and referred to the appropriate resources could help alleviate their homeless situation by providing them with services to help them stay off the streets. It first begins with a proper diagnosis and then referral as deemed appropriate. I am in favor of this bill.

Mahalo,

Liz Brown, BSW, CSAC

those solutions that could work to get people off the streets for good! In closing, I want to thank the committee for allowing me this opportunity to speak.

Sincerely,

Liz Brown
Student/Outreach Worker