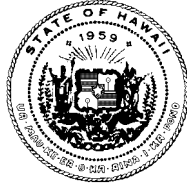


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 18, 2018

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

The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB2144 HD1 - RELATED TO MEDICAID**

Hearing: Monday, March 19, 2018, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments.

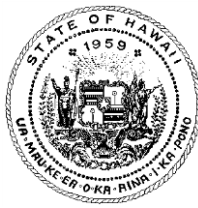
PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to require the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to inform inmates of the availability of assistance to secure or verify applicable Medicaid eligibility prior to an inmate's release.

Continuity of access to healthcare is important for all, including those who are incarcerated in public institutions. That being said, federal regulations prohibit Medicaid payment for services provided to inmates of public institutions, including correctional institutions, except for services provided as "*a patient in a medical institution that is not located on the grounds of the public institution.*" Due to this regulation, Medicaid does not allow an inmate to remain enrolled for Medicaid benefits during their time of incarceration as this bill proposes. DHS appreciates the amendment of the House Committees on Health & Human Services and Public Safety regarding this issue.

However, PSD and DHS Med-QUEST (MQD) have executed a data-share agreement that allows for file transfers of incarceration and release dates for individuals. We are working on developing the data exchange and other processes to facilitate re-entry, so that the Medicaid eligibility determination process may begin just prior to release of the inmate. The goal is to have eligibility determined for Medicaid just prior to release and the application will remain pending until the inmate is released.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2144, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO MEDICAID

by
Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Monday, March 19, 2018; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chairs Green and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Chang and Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports the intent** of House Bill (HB) 2144, House Draft (HD) 1, which would require PSD to inform inmates of the availability of assistance to secure or verify applicable Medicaid eligibility prior to an inmate's release.

The Department notes that with the support of the 2017 Legislature in passing Act 56, the \$25,000 appropriation provided to PSD to establish processes for inmates to obtain civil identification cards, essential for successful reentry to the community, has assisted the Department in reinvigorating its Reentry Coordination Office (RCO), which is working intensively in providing guidance and assistance to each facility's staff to overcome obstacles to developing work opportunities, access to social services, assistance in securing housing, and access to health coverage, giving priority to inmates who will be the earliest to reenter society.

Testimony on HB 2144, HD1
Senate Committee on Human Services
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March 19, 2018
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In short, PSD's Reentry Coordination Office is not just informing inmates of available assistance, its staff has built and is continually working to improve processes to secure the above elements, including MedQuest/Medicaid access, into the overall Reentry Program, providing inmates in custody with access to the services necessary for a successful reentry to the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: [\(808\) 927-1214](tel:(808)927-1214) / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Sen. Josh Green, Chair

Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Monday, March 19, 2018

3:00 pm

Room 016

SUPPORT FOR HB 2144 HD1 - MEDICAID

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Green, Vice Chairs Wakai and Chang and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of all the people who have died in our facilities including, JESSICA FORTSON, JOEY O'MALLEY, DAISY KASITATI, ASHLEY GREY. and the approximately 5,500 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that approximately 1,600 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Connecting people to services and resources - especially health care - is a crucial piece of successful reintegration for folks exiting incarceration.

Community Alliance on Prisons supports this measure and hopes that people coming home will have access to the assistance they need. We urge the committees to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

*"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health
is the most shocking and inhumane."*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**HB2144 HD1
RELATED TO MEDICAID**

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

March 19, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2144 HD1, which would require the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to inform inmates of the availability of services to assist in securing Medicaid eligibility prior to their release.

Adequate healthcare and other support services are imperative to successful reentry of ex-pa‘ahao back into the community. OHA understands that PSD and the Department of Human Services have already executed a data-sharing agreement to best prepare pa‘ahao for reentry, by beginning inmate eligibility determinations for Medicaid/Med-QUEST prior to their release. OHA hopes that informing inmates—a disproportionate number of whom are Native Hawaiian—of available social and healthcare services and assisting them in securing these services will help ease their reintegration into the community, and reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** HB2144 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

HB-2144-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:56:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2018 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

good preparation for exiting inmate, especially if they need medical assistance.