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April 2, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, 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.

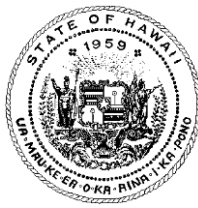
Continuity of access to healthcare is important for all, including those who are incarcerated in public institutions. That being said, federal regulations prohibit Medicaid payment for services provided to inmates of public institutions, including correctional institutions, except for services provided 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.

Based on our existing partnership with the Department of Public Safety, this bill is not required or necessary at this time as the desired work is already underway.

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



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No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 4, 2018; 10:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.

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.



**HB2144 HD1**  
**RELATED TO MEDICAID**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 4, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Room 211

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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 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 Committee to **PASS** HB2144 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

**HB-2144-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 4:23:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja       | Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: