

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

March 13, 2018

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

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 538 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent and supports the bill. It is consistent with the Department of Health's administration proposal HB 2371.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to create an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Administrative Claiming special fund.

The Medicaid program is administered and overseen by the Med-QUEST division (MQD) of DHS. We delegate the operations for the 1915(c) Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver to serve people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) to the Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division (DOH-DDD). Because they are operating on our behalf - the Medicaid agency, DOH-DDD may claim the 50% federal Medicaid administrative match. HB 538 HD1 requests the legislature's approval of the establishment of a special fund for deposits from this Medicaid administrative claiming to administer the HCBS I/DD waiver.

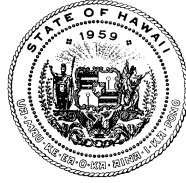
Currently, any administrative claiming Medicaid funds are deposited into the general fund. However, this has resulted in limiting the DOH-DDD's ability to implement many new major federal requirements that required sweeping changes to implement the waiver.

We confirm that implementation of these requirements and operations of quality services requires an adequate infrastructure that includes ongoing monitoring and training for staff, families, waiver participants, and providers. Specifically, per DOH DDD program, the monies from the fund would be used for:

- (1) Payment for fiscal management services of the Hawaii section 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver;
- (2) Training of staff, waiver providers, waiver participants, their families, and their legal representatives, and community stakeholders;
- (3) Quality management activities for operating the Hawaii section 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver;
- (4) Ongoing operations and maintenance of the information technology system;
- (5) Conducting rate methodology studies to define rates for the Hawaii section 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver; and
- (6) Assessment services for determining I/DD Waiver participants' level of support needs.

We further confirm that all of these activities are both increasing and necessary. DOH-DDD has been operating the I/DD program very efficiently and effectively up to this point; they have been collaborative partners with us in operating the Medicaid program; and we support their efforts to leverage the Medicaid dollars more effectively so that they can build additional and necessary infrastructure as listed above.

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



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB538 HD1  
RELATING TO HEALTH**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 14, 2018

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Medicaid  
2 Waiver Special Fund, upon approval from the Legislature, is expected to receive reimbursements  
3 through Targeted Case Management and other Medicaid administrative claiming. Under section  
4 1903(a)(7) of the Social Security Act, federal payment is available at a percentage of amounts  
5 expended by a state for allowable cost for administration of programs for the Medicaid  
6 population. The anticipated administrative claiming beginning in FY2019 is estimated at  
7 \$700,000 to \$1.2 million, which will support compliance requirements of the Medicaid I/DD  
8 Waiver.

9 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health strongly supports HB538 HD1. The  
10 companion bill to HB538 HD1 “Health” is SB2798 Relating to “Intellectual and Developmental  
11 Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Administrative Claiming Special Fund.” The Department of  
12 Health, Developmental Disabilities Division is the operating agency for the State of Hawaii's  
13 1915(c) Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver to serve Persons with  
14 Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). Medicaid administrative claiming is  
15 allowable for the proper and efficient administration of the HCBS I/DD waiver. HB538 HD1  
16 requests the legislature's approval of the establishment of a special fund for deposits from  
17 Medicaid allowable costs to administer the HCBS I/DD waiver.

1 Currently, administrative and targeted case management claiming for the operations of the  
2 HCBS are deposited in the general fund, limiting the DOH's ability to implement new federal  
3 requirements for implementation of the waiver, including the Final Rule on Community  
4 Integration and its Home and Community-Based Settings regulations. Implementation of these  
5 regulations and provision of quality services that meets Medicaid waiver requirements requires  
6 an adequate infrastructure and practices at all levels of the DDD program. The monies from this  
7 special fund will be used to meet these requirements and to modernize overall operations.

8 Specific uses of the proposed fund are:

- 9 (1) Payment for fiscal management services of the Hawaii section 1915(c) Home and  
10 Community-Based Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver;
- 11 (2) Training of staff, waiver providers, waiver participants, their families, and their legal  
12 representatives, and community stakeholders;
- 13 (3) Quality management activities for operating the Hawaii section 1915(c) Home and  
14 Community-Based Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver;
- 15 (4) Ongoing operations and maintenance of the information technology system;
- 16 (5) Conducting rate methodology studies to define rates for the Hawaii section 1915(c)  
17 Home and Community-Based Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental  
18 Disabilities waiver; and
- 19 (6) Assessment services for determining I/DD Waiver participants' level of support needs.

20 DOH-DDD has collaborated with the Department of Human Services (DHS) MedQuest Division  
21 (MQD) in this effort.

22 Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

23



*Achieve with us.*

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Testimony in Support of HB538 HD1

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

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Hearing Date: March 14, 2018      Room Number: 016

Honorable Senators:

The Arc in Hawaii strongly supports the Proposed HB538 HD1, concerning the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Administrative Claiming Special Fund.

The Arc in Hawaii, a private non-profit agency, provides services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) and their families across Oahu. Together with its national and neighbor-island Arc affiliates, The Arc in Hawaii promotes and protects the rights of people with ID/DD and actively supports their right to be included and fully participate in the community throughout their lifetime.

The federal government has issued new requirements that make extensive changes to implementation of the Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) Waiver program. HB538 will authorize the establishment of a special fund to support necessary compliance requirements, including payment for management, training, quality assurance, assessment, technology and methodology services needed for their implementation.

Crucially, proposed HD1 adds this Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Administrative Claiming Special Fund to the list of special funds not subject to a 5% deduction that would go to the General Fund. This addition is critical, especially now, with so many new federal requirements for the waiver program.

The Arc in Hawaii is committed to providing high quality waiver services to our participants. We embrace the person-centered philosophy that undergirds the changes that are happening in the Waiver

Program. New and different programs, however, will require changes both to our operations, and those of the Hawaii Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division.

Switching to a new paradigm will be a huge task that will not come without a cost. DOH DDD's ability to provide training and quality management services to Hawaii's already overstretched waiver services providers will be crucial to doing so successfully.

Additionally, the expenses associated with providing services increase year after year. Periodic rate studies using appropriate methodologies will be imperative to ensure that rates paid to service providers allow both for the deliverance of quality services and the sustainability of the organizations providing them.

We're doing our part as a waiver provider, but we are relying on DOH DDD to provide the additional training, monitoring and support services we will need in this new environment. We urge the passage of HB538 HD1 to provide adequate financial resources for DOH DDD as we all move forward.

Thank you very much for allowing us to submit testimony on behalf of the proposed HB538 HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lei J', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lei Fountain  
Executive Director

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 11:03:30 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Kilgore	Testifying for Full Life	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Green and Members of The Senate HMS Committee and Chair Baker and Members of the Senate CPH Committee

Full Life supports **HB538 HD1 establishing** a DOH-DDD Administrative Claiming Fund. We support DDD to have special fund to use to help pay for critical infrastructure we need for the I/DD Waiver. Specifically, funding and access to training for providers, participants, and families is very necessary. It is crucial that we are all working together to advance the quality of supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Also, access to funding DDD efforts in quality assurance, rate methodology, fiscal services, and technology management are important for our continued success.

Mahalo,

Jim Kilgore

Executive Director

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 1:44:33 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Comments	Yes

Comments:

While we have no particular objection to the creation of this special fund and do believe it would be useful to the DD Division, the Committees might want to ask the Department why it has not pursued administrative claiming previously. According to Section 1 of this measure the answer is because the money is deposited into the general fund as opposed to a special fund for the Department.

If that is true, then that appears to be a very "bureaucratic" way of looking at the overall issue of state finances. According to their testimony, this effort can generate approximately one million dollars. The Department's position appears to be that they are happy to pursue that so long as it will benefit their program- but if it is merely going to benefit the state revenue picture then it is "not worth their effort".

We would think that the Committees might have a more "holistic" view of the state's economy. We share that perspective as well and so if millions of dollars have been lost to the state because the Department did not bother to pursue this previously, then we submit that they have some explaining to do to. Perhaps it might be appropriate to consider requesting the Legislative Auditor to undertake a Financial and Management Audit of the Developmental Disabilities Division.

Additionally, in the past year, our office has received a huge increase in the number of complaints about the DD Division. The nature of the complaints range from concerns about the restrictive eligibility policies as well as an intake system that is very unfriendly to the consumers. Parents have experienced lengthy delays in the processing of applications and it appears that the Division's Compliance Office has manipulated every possible legal technique to thwart requests for openness and information.

Last week, in response to these concerns Rep. Mizuno convened a meeting at the request of several parents. The DD Division was in attendance as was HDRC. There was some consensus that it would be very helpful if the legislature could convene a Work Group to evaluate some of these problems and propose solutions. It was also suggested that a "vehicle" be found so that this could be formalized in some legislation this session.



Given the broad title of this measure as well as the fact that it already deals with the Developmental Disabilities Division, HB 538 appears to be an ideal bill into which this provision could be inserted. For that reason we respectfully request that the Committees amend the bill to add a Part which creates this Work Group to be composed of the DD Division, the DD Council, parents of children with developmental disabilities, the HDRC, and members of the legislature.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

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

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer

DATE: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 (2:45 p.m., Room 016)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of HB 538, HD1, Relating to Health**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing Home and Community-based Medicaid Waiver services for individuals with developmental disabilities/intellectual disabilities since 1995.

**CCH supports HB538, HD1**, which would establish the "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Administrative Claiming Special Fund" so that funds from Medicaid administrative claiming can be used for specified purposes in support of waiver services rather than being deposited to the General Fund. The bill also adds this new Special Fund to the list of Special Funds not subject to the 5% assessment to the General Fund.

In particular, CCH hopes that this Special Fund will be used for the following purposes:

- **Increased and enhanced training opportunities** - There have been significant recent changes in waiver services, largely to comply with new federal requirements. In order to provide quality of care for individuals served by the waiver, a significant amount of training is necessary - for Department of Health/Developmental Disabilities Division (DOH/DDD) staff, for waiver provider agencies, for consumers (and their guardians), and other community stakeholders. As a waiver service provider, CCH is doing its best to adjust to the many new changes in requirements and welcomes the support of DOH/DDD in the form of ongoing, timely and relevant training.
- **Regular rate review** –periodic rate studies, using industry based methodologies, are needed to ensure that payments to providers are fair, and in keeping with the rising cost of doing business and the changing demands of government requirements.

CCH asks for your support of HB538, HD1. Please feel free to email Diane Terada, Division Administrator, at [diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) or call her via phone at 527-4702 if there are any questions.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 2:31:04 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

MAILING ADDRESS

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Kealahou, HI 96750

OFFICE LOCATIONS

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Fax: 808-323-9444

HONOKAA

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808-775-1090

HILO

1990 Kinoole Street

KAPAAU

54-3885 Akoni Pule Hwy

OCEAN VIEW

92-1804 Keaka Parkway

Federal ID

99-0108896

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

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

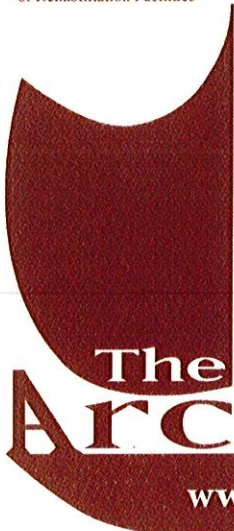
Hearing Date: March 14, 2018, 2:45 pm, Room 016

RE: **Testimony in support of HB 538 HD 1**  
Relating to Health

The Arc of Kona **supports HB 538 HD 1**, which creates the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Administrative Claiming Special Fund.

The Arc of Kona is located on the Big Island of Hawaii and provides Medicaid Waiver Home and Community Based Services to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) island-wide. We appreciate and support DD Division's continuous efforts to build and further strengthen the infrastructure that supports Hawaii's Medicaid Waiver services. There have been numerous necessary changes to our waiver and this fund would enable DD Division to continue to implement the many changes, including the CMS Final Rule on Community Integration, efficiently and effectively throughout the state. The fund would be utilized in a variety of ways including the following, which we believe would have tremendous positive impact on both service providers and the individuals we serve:

**Training:** As a not-for-profit organization on a neighbor island, resources for training staff are limited, yet training is an important element of effective staff retention efforts and crucial in facilitating successful change initiatives. Consistent training at no cost for everyone involved in the service delivery process including the participant and provider employees would be highly beneficial. And, as our waiver services continue to change and evolve, continuous training will also be a necessity. Training would help decrease employee turnover resulting in less disruption of services for participants.



*"Expanding the Possibilities"*  
*"Ho'o Nui Ka Hiki"*

**Quality Management:** The individuals we serve have the right to services that are of the highest quality. Change can be difficult and quality can slip as changes are implemented and the transition to new and revised services takes place. Ongoing, quality management initiatives are necessary to ensure quality measures are defined and communicated effectively, providers and key stakeholders are held accountable to those quality measures, and improvement strategies are implemented as needed.

**Rate Studies:** There are expenses incurred with service delivery and many of those expenses increase year after year. Conducting periodic rate methodology studies will be imperative to ensure rates paid to service providers are fair and relevant. This results in higher quality service provision and positively impacts the sustainability of the service provider agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 538 HD1. The individuals we serve will benefit the greatest from your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michele L. Ku", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Michele L. Ku  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 9:46:48 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We support adding a working group to the bill for transparency and helping our disabled population receive appropriate and timely services

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 6:27:13 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donald Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to submit testimony in support of HB 538 with the amendment to add a **working group** to ensure transparency and fairness to all parents, children and applicants as well as those currently being serviced in this program. Our son, Bowen Brown, is currently being denied services by the Department of Disability even though his Autism is so severe that he spent almost 150 days in the Queen's Inpatient Psych unit for violent behaviours and then had to be transferred to an off-island facility in Virginia where he still is. Our family is currently struggling to find any support for transition services to bring Bowen back home.

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:08:58 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tina Turpin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help our disabled population receive the services they need by adding the "Working Group" to this bill.



**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:34:55 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Ratliff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I highly support adding a work group to bring transparency and helping our disabled population receive appropriate and timely services. It is critical that our disabled population receive ABA, FBA & other behavior support in the Department of Education system. We are a military family and my Autistic son received ABA services when he was in Elementary school in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Due to those services he received in school, he would not have progressed to what he is today. Having experienced it first hand, ABA in school is very crucial in the development of kids on the spectrum.

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:45:35 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amanda Kelly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the workgroup. I support these services. I support identifying pukas and filling in the gaps. Mahalo for your attention on this matter.

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 10:34:07 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jordan Spinak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support a workgroup to help our community of families that have disabled children to help them receive services in an appropriate and timely manner.

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 11:41:24 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brandi Picardal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear representatives,

I urge to to support HB538 HD1. As a parent of a child with Autism and a parent who helps other parents, I can testify that access to DDD services are crucial in providing for the needs of children with Intelectual Disibilities.

Parents need to be able to access these critical services without delay. Parents are often living in crisis mode 24 hours a day. With stress levels similar to soldier's in war.

When parents get these critical services and supports for their children, it provides for less dependancy on DDD services over their lifetime. DDD services are also critical in providing children and their families with a higher quality of life which allows them to be productive members of our society instead of being a burden.

Please support our Intelectually Disabled children here in Hawaii by supporting HB538 HD1.

Mahalo,

Brandi M. Picardal

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 12:39:38 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tanya Webb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 12:52:20 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Natalie Belmear	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 8:03:54 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jill Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill along with the HB539 HD1 ammedendements. We are the parents of an adult son with Developemental Dissabilities and have just been accepted into the waiver process. Without these services his life will be greatly impacted in many areas. I ask you to please pass these very important bills and ammendements.

Sincerely,

Jill and Don Park

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:20:48 AM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Orfe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

treatment for mentally disabled youth should be available on island



## Testimony on HB538

### **Easterseals Hawaii supports HB538 HD1, which would create the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Administrative Claiming Fund.**

Easterseals Hawaii provides individualized, family-centered services to empower people with disabilities or special needs to achieve their goals and live independent, fulfilling lives. We have been serving special needs children, youth and adults for 70 years and provide more than 500,000 hours of direct service annually to individuals and families across the state. Our clients, organization, and many other service providers will be directly affected by HB538 HD1.

This bill would strengthen the ability of the Department of Health to provide funding, support and oversight of Medicaid Waiver Home and Community - Based Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (HCBS). Currently, any administrative claiming Medicaid funds are deposited into the general fund. However, this has resulted in limiting the DDD's ability to implement many new major federal requirements that required sweeping changes to implement the waiver.

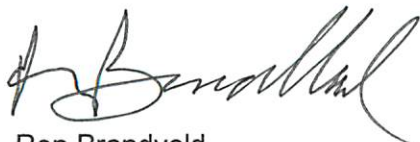
The implementation of these requirements and operations of quality services requires an adequate infrastructure that includes ongoing monitoring and training for staff, families, waiver participants, and providers. Specifically the money from the fund would be used for:

- 1) Payment for fiscal management services of the Hawaii section 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver;
- 2) Training of staff, waiver providers, waiver participants, their families, and their legal representatives, and community stakeholders;
- 3) Quality management activities for operating the Hawaii section 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver;
- 4) Ongoing operations and maintenance of the information technology system;
- 5) Conducting rate methodology studies to define rates for the Hawaii section 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver; and
- 6) Assessment services for determining I/DD Waiver participants' level of support needs.

All of these activities are both increasing and necessary. The DDD has been operating the I/DD and Medicaid programs very efficiently and effectively up to this point and we support their efforts to leverage the Medicaid dollars more effectively so that they can build additional and necessary infrastructure to serve this growing community.

Thank you very much for allowing us to submit testimony on behalf of HB538 HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Brandvold", written in a cursive style.

Ron Brandvold  
CEO, Easterseals Hawaii

**HB-538-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 1:40:23 PM

Testimony for HMS on 3/14/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Kobayakawa	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am requesting that a friendly amendment be added to this bill to add a "Working Group" that will assist applicants for Medicaid, which is directly related to this bill. I am doing so as a parent of an adult son with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who receives services from the DOH-DDD through the Medicaid Waiver. It is the services he receives through Medicaid Waiver that make everything that is important to him in his life work. He enjoys a productive and dynamic life; is employed and has been for almost 8 years and lives independently in a domiciliary home. This would not be possible without the Medicaid Waiver. Navigating this system care and maintaining these services can be daunting, especially for new parents. They find it frustrating, difficult to understand and not user friendly. By creating a Work Group made up of a variety of people who can bring to the table experiences from across the state we can help our legislators to better understand the needs of families with who children and adults with disabilities and must care for them on an ongoing basis. We are faced with the life long task of "forever" taking care of our children in a way that is unlike any other faced by typical parents. By creating this group, we hope to facilitate dialogue, understanding of the depth of the needs for these families and how to make this system of care work better for them and their children. We need to start somewhere and I believe this Work Group is that place. Please consider adding this amendment to HB538 HD1.

Thank you.