

**SB-330**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 8:40:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                             | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian I. Hauser     | Testifying for Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**Aloha Independent Living Hawaii supports SB 330. As an agency that serves individuals who rely on Medicaid for durable medical equipment and other Medicaid waiver programs not available through other insurance programs. These individuals are discouraged from taking on meaningful paid employment which can interfere with their Medicaid eligibility.**

**This bill is an interim step to a full Medicaid Buy-In program which would allow and encourage individuals with disabilities to pursue and maintain well paying jobs without loosing the important assistance Medicaid provides. This bill allow for earned income disregard of 138% of the federal poverty level in Hawaii which is \$19,845. This income disregard would allow an individual to earn about \$380/week in a partime job.**

**Ultimately we would like to see a full Medicaid buy in program so that individuals with disabilities would be able to work full time jobs at a decent wage while still maintaining their medicaid benefits. We urge the legislature to follow the recommendations of the Medicaid buy-in task force.**



1809 Bachelot Street  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
 Wednesday, February 13, 2019

State of Hawaii  
 Hawaii State Senate

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

February 14, 2019; 10:00 a.m.  
 SB 330 Relating To An Earned Income Disregard Program

Good afternoon Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee on Ways and Means,

Lanakila Pacific strongly **supports** SB 330 to provide an income disregard for workers with disabilities. Many people with disabilities are interested in working yet have the concern with how their income would affect their Medicaid benefits. Expanding access to Medicaid would provide people with disabilities who are interested in working the opportunity to get or keep health coverage while on the job.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2017 only 20.6% of people with disabilities were employed compared to over 66% of those without a disability. More people with disabilities working means there are more consumers to put money back into the economy, more contributing tax payers, and better use of state resources.

Lanakila Pacific supports people with disabilities through discovery and career planning, employment training, and job placement assistance programs.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Rona Fukumoto  
 President & CEO

Lori Lutu  
 Director of TLC

Kimberlee Auten  
 Director of Training & Advocacy

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**SB-330**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 9:29:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/14/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

## Comments:

My son is a medicaid recipient. Luckily for us, he has a medical nessesity that allows him to keep it. My husband and I both work full time. We make enough to house, feed and clothe us, but not enough to pay for my son's medical equiptment and services he needs. Medicaid is a great program that many children and families could benefit from but cannot receive because the parents "make too much money". We are struggling, we are surviving, but we are not abusing the system. We need this support to be a healthy, working family. In the future, I may have to quit my job in order for us to qualify for Medicaid. This will add us to other programs like housing and foodstamps. Let us be contributors to our state economy and household. Please support this bill to disregard income. We need Medicaid for all. Mahalo.