



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

February 26, 2020

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2465 SD 1 – RELATING TO THE TRANSITIONS CLINIC NETWORK PILOT PROGRAM**

Hearing: February 27, 2020, 10:35 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. DHS appreciates the amendment made by the Committee on Human Services.

PURPOSE: The purposes of this bill requires and appropriates funds for the department of human services to procure the services of a master contractor to manage subcontracts and expenditures for a transitions clinic network pilot program. Effective 1/1/2021. (SD1)

For the Legislature's information, DHS has worked with the Department of Public Safety (PSD) to develop an information sharing process to improve the Medicaid application process for soon to be released individuals. The goal is that those individuals eligible for Medicaid, will exit incarceration and reenter society with access to health care.

DHS is not aware of a transitions clinic network currently operating here in Hawaii and we would need some time to research how the other States who have Transitions Clinic Networks have developed, implemented, and operate their networks. See

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/self-sufficiency-series-tcn.pdf>.

On February 12, 2020, DHS had a brief telephone consultation with Shira Shavit, MD, Executive Director, Transitions Clinic Network, Clinical Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Shavit described the transitions clinic networks model that uses healthcare workers with justice experience to support the health care needs of formerly incarcerated individuals. We are awaiting a proposal from Dr. Shavit describing the scope of technical assistance that the transitions clinic network currently offers, and will know more about time frames and fiscal needs to establish a transition clinic network. As session continues, DHS will provide the updated information to the Legislature.

DHS notes that the Committee on Human Services extended the original effective date. DHS asks that the effective date be extended to July 1, 2021 so that we have sufficient time and resources to research and consult with stakeholders, including PSD, and other States who have transition clinic networks prior to this law becoming effective. That date will also give DHS the opportunity to request funding in the next legislation session if the need arises. DHS notes that additional funding may be necessary to train healthcare outreach workers who have been involved with the justice system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.