

SB720 SD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

Report Title: Health Care; Medicaid; Comprehensive Home and Community-based Services; Eligibility

Description: Expands access to medicaid home and community-based services to include individuals who require home care services more than twice weekly, do not have ready access to reliable transportation, and live thirty miles or more from the nearest hospital. (SD1)

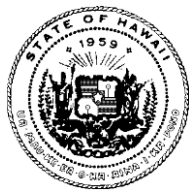
Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS, CPH

Introducer(s): S. CHANG, Fevella, Nishihara, Ruderman

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

February 24, 2019

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

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 720 SD 1 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) offers comments on the bill. We would like to work with stakeholders to understand where there may be gaps in coverage and explore how they may be able to get coverage for services through the QUEST Integration (QI) program.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to include individuals who require home care services more than twice weekly, do not have ready access to reliable transportation, and live thirty miles or more from the nearest hospital as a population eligible to receive Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver services.

Individuals who meet these criteria are already eligible for HCBS under the QUEST Integration (QI) program. The HCBS benefit in the QI program is offered to all beneficiaries if they need or are at risk of needing an institutional level of care, regardless of how often in a week services are provided, where they live in relation to a hospital, or their access to transportation. Thus, we already provide the coverage that this bill addresses.

DHS would like to work with stakeholders to understand why certain individuals meeting the criteria in the bill may not be receiving HCBS. If there is confusion for individuals who should be receiving HCBS under current rules, then we would like to resolve that

confusion; or if there is misunderstanding regarding who should qualify for HCBS, we would like to provide clarification in order to make sure eligible individuals are receiving the home and community based services that they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.