

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 21, 2022

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Committee on Health

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR130/SR114** – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO JOINTLY DEVELOP AND ADOPT ALL RULES, POLICIES, AND PLAN AMENDMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE STATE MEDICAID PROGRAM TO COVER MEDICALLY-NEEDED SERVICES, INCLUDING APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES, FOR INDIVIDUALS AGED TWENTY-ONE AND OLDER WITH NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS, INCLUDING AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.

HEARING: Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 3:20 pm
Via Videoconference, State Capitol Conference Room

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) offers comments.

PURPOSE: SCR 130/SR114 asks the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to work together to develop rules, policies, and Medicaid state plan amendments to cover services, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for people aged twenty-one and older who have neurodevelopmental disorders including autism spectrum disorders.

The waiver services for individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities are delivered by the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Division. While they do not

provide Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) per se, similar services are provided to individuals who are 21 and older.

ABA is provided for individuals under 21 through the Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic and Treatment benefit for 0-21 aged beneficiaries served by the DHS Med-QUEST Division (MQD). ABA does have evidence of clinical effectiveness, especially for younger children. However, there are no clinical guidelines for its use in older individuals, except for some guidelines in the United Kingdom. For individuals who have a neurodevelopmental disorder, who do not meet the criteria for coverage under the I/DD program, some intensive behavioral health services may be available with their QUEST Integration Health Plan; however, it may not be ABA specifically.

Of note, not all medically necessary care is available for Medicaid enrollees 21 and over. For example, oral health services are considered essential for health and well-being but are currently not covered by Medicaid except for emergency care. For those non-covered services for an individual with a neurodevelopmental disorder, MQD would need to seek federal approval and request a general fund appropriation to cover the services. More analysis would be needed to develop the policy and the fiscal impact.

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

SR-114

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:04:23 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/22/2022 3:20:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Headrick	Testifying for Autism Speaks	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I apologize that this is being submitted less than 24 hours ahead of the hearing; I just saw the bill in my tracker. Applied behavior analysis is an evidence-based therapy for autism and, along with other medically necessary services when prescribed by a health care professional for an individual, can make a world of difference to the person being able to achieve their potential for things like employment, independent living, or even just self-care. Autism Speaks strongly supports this resolution and would be happy to be of service to the Departments of Health and Human Services. Thank you.