



HPCOA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Human Services

The Hon. John Mizuno, Chair

The Hon. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1915

Relating to Medicaid

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

January 30, 2012 8:30 a.m., Room 329

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association supports the intent of House Bill 1915, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Human Services to notify the legislature of any proposed changes to Medicaid programs or state plan amendments. This bill also grants the legislature the authority to require the department to, or prevent the department from, making changes to Medicaid programs.

We understand and support the intent of this measure to increase transparency into the operations of the State Medicaid programs. However, we believe that transparency alone will not produce meaningful changes to the manner in which state Medicaid policy is determined, nor will it prevent decisions that may be detrimental to the sustainability of Medicaid programs, and the health of their enrollees. Early community and consumer engagement provides an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed changes, and helps the Department make informed decisions on program changes. We therefore propose the following amendment to the measure beginning on page 2 line 1:

"days prior to implementation; provided that for any proposed state plan amendment, the department shall hold statewide public hearings prior to submission [submitted] to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, taking into consideration public input on the proposed changes; [the notification shall be made prior to submission] and provided further that the department shall provide a schedule of the public hearings in advance to the legislature. The notification shall include the [full text and details of the intended change] proposed state plan amendment."

We ask that you pass this measure out of committee to further discussion. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.