

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

June 18, 2001

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1234

Honorable Members
Twenty-First Legislature
State of Hawaii

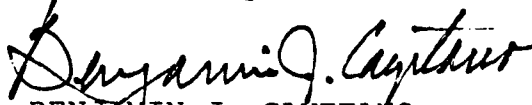
Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 1234, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to QUEST."

The purpose of House Bill No. 1234 is to accomplish the following: (1) to require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to incorporate a new risk adjustment for child births if there is a substantial disparity in the number of child births among QUEST health plans; (2) to define enabling services in accordance with federally qualified health center (FQHC) services; and (3) to increase eligibility for Med-QUEST assistance for children by including families whose income level is up to three hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

This bill is partially unnecessary, because recently enacted federal legislation requires reimbursement of enabling services to FQHCs and DHS is currently coordinating with FQHCs to identify enabling services. Furthermore, the increase in eligibility for Med-QUEST assistance for children is conditioned on "the resources available," but no appropriation of funds is made to provide Med-QUEST services for children whose families' income level is up to three hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 1234 without my approval.

Respectfully,


BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
Governor of Hawaii