



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

March 22, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Michelle N Kidani, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 81/SR 49 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO
EXAMINE HOW THE DPEARTMENT OF EDUCATION CAN MAXIMIZE
MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR SUPPORT SERVICES OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE
STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

Hearing: Friday, March 23, 2018, 2:55 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the resolutions and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the resolutions are that a working group be established to examine how the Department of Education can maximize Medicaid reimbursement for support services offered to eligible students during school hours, to include at least occupational and physical therapy, speech pathology, applied behavioral analysis, and other wellness supports that benefit a student's well-being and growth; and that this working group consist of administrative staff and/or their representatives from the Department of Education(DOE), Med-QUEST, Deputy Attorneys General representing DHS and Department of Health or their respective designees, and Chairs of the Senate and House Committees on Education, who will also be the c-chairs of the working group.

For background information, today, the Hawaii State Departments of Education (DOE) and Med-QUEST (MQD) are already collaboratively working together to maximize Medicaid reimbursements for eligible services provided to students attending Hawaii's public school system. Currently DOE already does and continues to actively process claims for eligible services for Medicaid covered children by licensed providers in the areas of physical therapy, occupational therapy, auditory and speech language therapy, and behavioral health services. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, the DOE received a total net federal reimbursement of \$324,340; with FY 2018 totaling \$172,549 to date.

In addition, DOE has been working with DHS to obtain billing rates and codes from MQD in order to receive Medicaid reimbursement for Medicaid covered services of applied behavior analysis, skilled nursing, and transportation. DOE has been tasked with identifying eligible billable services applicable in the educational setting for applied behavior analysis. To bill and claim for transportation, a Medicaid State Plan amendment is being submitted by us for approval by the Medicaid federal approving agency, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. DOE will be able to bill Medicaid for reimbursement of the aforementioned services up to twenty-four (24) months prior to the date the claim is submitted for payment.

We support your commitment to ensure that Hawaii's public school system optimizes all available opportunities to maximize Medicaid reimbursements and will continue our work with DOE to achieve this goal.

We further clarify that reimbursement from Medicaid presumes the child is eligible for and a recipient of Medicaid health insurance coverage. Medicaid reimbursement would not be available to a child who is not eligible to receive Medicaid coverage.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these resolutions.

SR-49

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 9:52:30 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/23/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: