



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

March 6, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SCR 13/SR 14 – URGING CONGRESS TO AMEND TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO REQUIRE MEDICAID TO COVER THE ROUTINE COSTS OF CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN CLINICAL TRIALS.**

Hearing: March 10, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of SCR 13 / SR 14 is to urge the United States Congress to amend federal law to require Medicaid to cover the routine costs of care for patients with life threatening conditions who are enrolled in clinical trials.

DHS appreciates the intent to make coverage for the routine costs of care for beneficiaries in clinical trials mandatory nationwide for all Medicaid programs. DHS agrees that coverage for routine costs of care for beneficiaries participating in a clinical trial should be provided. As such, in December 2019, DHS clarified that standard costs of care for individuals participating in approved clinical trials is covered, whether their condition is life threatening or not. Thus, DHS already covers the routine costs of care for Medicaid beneficiaries in clinical trials in Hawaii.

DHS developed this policy after months of working with the University of Hawaii Cancer Center (UH Cancer Center) and other stakeholders. One aspect of the collaboration

between DHS and UH Cancer Center was a focus on using expert national standards that could be applied to Med-QUEST. The current policy guidance reflects the best practices toward coverage of routine costs of care for Medicaid beneficiaries participating in an approved clinical trial.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.