STAND. COM. REP. NO. 511

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 0 4 2023

RE: S.R. No. 152

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2023 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.R. No. 152 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES' MED-QUEST DIVISION TO TAKE STEPS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE PROVIDER RATES ARE ESTABLISHED FOR APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Department of Human Services' Med-QUEST Division to:

- (1) Take steps necessary to ensure that adequate provider rates are established for applied behavioral analysis services;
- (2) Assess current reimbursement rates for applied behavior analysis services; and
- (3) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations on appropriate reimbursement rate increases, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Association for Behavior Analysis; Hawaii Disability Rights Center; BAYADA Behavioral Health; Behavior Analysis No Ka Oi, Inc.; Council of Autism Service Providers; and fifteen individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services and one individual.

Your Committee finds that applied behavior analysis is a medically necessary service provided for Med-QUEST beneficiaries under the age of twenty-one with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. Your Committee also finds that the Med-QUEST reimbursement rates for applied behavior analysis services have not been increased since their establishment in 2015, and the State's current reimbursement rate for applied behavior analysis services, particularly for registered behavior technicians, is below the current market rate. Behavioral health service providers in the State have struggled to meet the needs of QUEST beneficiaries due to the increased costs of operating a business. The low reimbursement rates and the high cost of living in the State also contribute to shortage in staff, resulting in significant delays for QUEST beneficiaries to access the needed services. This measure will allow behavioral health service providers to maintain their operations, pay livable wages to their staff, and create additional positions to sufficiently serve Med-OUEST beneficiaries.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 152 and recommends its adoption.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

BUENAVENTURA, Chair

The Senate Thirty-Second Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Health and Human Services HHS

Bill / Resolut		Committee	Referral:	Da		
SR 15	2	HHS			3/24/23	
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.						
If so, then the previous decision was to:						
The Recommendation is:						
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313						
	Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)						\searrow
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)			X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.			×	ļ		
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.			X			
AWA, Brenton			У			
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	TOTAL		4	0	0	1
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted						
Chair's or Designee's Signature:						
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy						

^{*}Only one measure per Record of Votes