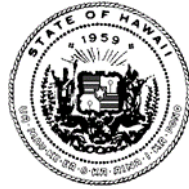


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELawe KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 1, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2114 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, Time 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill, establishing the Hawai'i Benefits Hub within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), and provides comments. DHS defers to ETS for its resource needs. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace a priority identified in the executive budget.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), Public Law 119–21, signed July 4, 2025, significantly changed federally funded safety net programs. Among the changes, OBBBA expanded and added work compliance requirements as a condition of qualifying for and maintaining eligibility for services under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid.

To maintain program eligibility, a single information hub may benefit Hawaii residents and DHS by confirming compliance with work requirements, ensuring information is received and secured, and providing recipients with assurance that the Department receives their efforts toward program compliance.

In regards to SNAP, effective November 1, 2025, OBBBA increased the population subject to the work requirements under the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)

requirements to now include adults ages 18-64 (previously ages 18-54), adults in households with children age 14 years and older, and people who are experiencing homelessness, former foster youth under 24 years old that aged-out of foster care at age 18, and veterans. The last 3 groups were previously exempt from ABAWD requirements. As a result of these changes, an estimated 16,500 SNAP individuals ages 55-64, and an estimated 10,000 households with a child aged 14+ will be required to complete at least 80 hours of employment or work activity per month to retain their SNAP benefits.

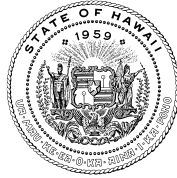
In regard to Medicaid, OBBBA increased eligibility requirements for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Expansion adults:

- Effective December 31, 2026, eligibility renewals increase to every 6 months from the current annual renewal.
- Effective December 31, 2026, states are required to establish work/community engagement requirements for ACA Expansion adults aged 19-64 as a condition of Medicaid eligibility. Working, community service, or a work program, or at least half-time enrollment in an educational program, or a combination of these activities for 80 hours; or monthly income that is at least 80 times the federal hourly minimum wage; seasonal workers with average monthly income over previous 6 months that is at least 80 times the federal hourly minimum wage (\$580 per month).

From DHS's information technology perspective, the proposed HUB will require system, business, and legal resources to develop its governance framework. Time is also a factor, as DHS programs are already planning system modifications to implement OBBBA and other federal administrative changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
LUNA 'ENEHANA

STATE OF HAWAII' | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | KE'ENA HO'OLANA 'ENEHANA

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Testimony of
CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
TO THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS
Tuesday, February 2, 2026

HOUSE BILL NO. 2114
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 2114.

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) offers **comments** on this bill which proposes to establish the Hawai'i Benefits Hub within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services and appropriates funds.

A central portal to government services has the potential to help streamline access to state-managed social assistance programs, improve data integration, and reduce administrative burdens. The measure, however, goes beyond ETS's responsibility for statewide information technology governance, developing and managing IT strategic plans, and implementing technology standards.

ETS advances the business of government through secure, efficient technology solutions. We enable executive departments and state agencies to share data seamlessly, fostering collaboration and improving public service delivery. We provide strategic guidance and technical expertise to ensure initiatives strengthen operations and create a more connected, responsive government.

H.B. 2114 proposes the creation of a benefits hub that functions as an integrated central repository for eligibility data; a hub that can provide real-time information on current eligibility and facilitate verification requirements for state-managed social assistance programs, in addition to the ability for applicants to directly enter their information to apply for these programs. Additionally, it proposes a system that can accommodate data sharing with non-state entities. The features of the proposed benefits hub are beyond the scope of ETS's responsibility to develop and manage IT governance and strategic plans, and to facilitate data sharing between state agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



House Committee Human Services and Homelessness
February 3, 2026 at 9 AM
Room 329

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2114

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO), I am writing **support of HB2114**, which would establish the Hawai'i Benefits Hub within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to help Hawai'i residents more easily maintain enrollment in state-managed social assistance programs.

The Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) is a statewide, sector-wide professional association of nonprofits that works to strengthen and unite the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai'i. Since 2006, HANO has been a leading voice for the nonprofit sector, leveraging resources, educating and advocating for policies and practices that promote the professionalism, sustainability, and effectiveness of nonprofits and the communities they serve.

HB2114 would help address challenges in Hawai'i's benefits landscape by creating a centralized, technology-based portal that allows residents to more easily find, apply for, and maintain enrollment in multiple government assistance programs. A coordinated Hawai'i Benefits Hub has the potential to reduce confusion, minimize duplicative processes, and improve both efficiency and accuracy for residents, state agencies, and nonprofit service providers alike.

HANO supports this bill because it can help promote access to public benefits. Many nonprofit organizations serve clients who face barriers such as limited digital access, language challenges, disabilities, etc. A well-designed Benefits Hub can reduce missed deadlines, prevent lapses in coverage, and improve continuity of services for these populations, while allowing nonprofit partners to focus more time on direct support rather than navigating fragmented, changing systems.

HANO recommends that the Hawai'i Benefits Hub be designed with client privacy and assistance in mind, including accommodations for individuals with limited digital literacy and access. Nonprofit organizations are often trusted intermediaries and should be supported as partners in outreach, enrollment assistance, and ongoing navigation. Additionally, we would encourage coordination with existing nonprofit case management and data systems where appropriate, along with technical assistance or resources to help nonprofits integrate this new tool effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Tuesday, February 3, 2026; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2114, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 2114, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would establish within the Office of Enterprise Technology a Hawaii Benefits Hub (Hub) to serve as a central repository for the needs and credentials of Hawaii's residents applying to state managed social assistance benefit programs and as a central registry for qualified volunteer and educational programs that meet social assistance benefit program community engagement requirements. The bill would also appropriate \$4,250,000 in general funds for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the establishment of the Hub.

During the interim following the Adjournment Sine Die of the 2025 Regular Session, House Resolution No. 1 (H.R. 1), also known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act", was enacted by Congress and signed into law on July 4, 2025. Among other things, H.R. 1 established work or volunteer requirements for all Medicaid recipients of at least 80 hours per month (or 20 hours per week), effective December 31, 2026. These changes to Medicaid appear to apply similar work requirements that had already been established under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The enactment of H.R. 1 appears to provide some conformity for both programs.

Testimony on House Bill No. 2114
Tuesday, February 3, 2026; 9:00 a.m.
Page 2

These changes to federal law will require State Medicaid and SNAP Programs to confirm the eligibility of program enrollees and recipients in meeting these new requirements. Among other things, various agencies will need to upgrade their information technology infrastructure and train staff to implement these changes to federal policy. Without adequate collaboration and coordination between MedQUEST and SNAP Program staff, enrollees and participants might have their benefits delayed or denied even if all work or volunteer requirements were met.

The Hub proposed under this bill would help to facilitate meaningful collaboration among the various programs by establishing a central point where employment and volunteer data can be stored and accessed to verify the qualifications of benefit applicants. Without such a centralized hub, countless staff hours will likely be duplicated and wasted by multiple programs seeking the same kinds of information.

It will be vital for the State to facilitate the implementation of the new work requirements. Delays will ultimately lead to the disenrollment of current Medicaid enrollees and shift them to the uninsured population. That would lead to greater costs borne by providers at emergency rooms and at FQHCs. Should that happen, the accessibility of basic health care services to the entire citizenry would be seriously jeopardized.

Accordingly, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiipca.net.



To: The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
The Honorable Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Director of Public Policy
Maria Rallojey, Public Policy Specialist

Hearing: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 9:00am, Conference Room 329

RE: **HB2114 Relating to Human Services**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **HB2114**. This measure would establish the Hawai'i Benefits Hub within the Office of Enterprise Technology Services.

AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan founded by Hawai'i's Community Health Centers and the Queen Emma Clinics. We serve over 66,000 Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dual-eligible residents on all islands. Since 1994, AlohaCare has partnered with providers, government entities, and community-based organizations to meet the evolving needs of our safety net community as Hawai'i's only health plan focused solely on Medicaid-eligible individuals. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for equitable access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare's commitment to whole-person care and health equity includes addressing various social determinants of health. We believe that access to benefits is access to stability, and ultimately, stability is health. As part of the safety net, we know families face barriers in applying for and maintaining eligibility across programs. Many of these programs also require duplicative documentation, repeated verification, and different program rules. For families, having to navigate through these areas (while juggling work, caregiving, language barriers, disability, etc.) are expected to increase both challenges and administrative burden. AlohaCare supports a centralized hub that can address these barriers for our families.

The measure is also responsive to the realization that new federal administrative requirements, such as documenting *community engagement* hours, can create coverage loss and churn if individuals cannot easily report compliance or receive reminders. We are deeply concerned about avoidable coverage loss and disruption in access to care. For these reasons, AlohaCare supports this measure to help keep families connected to critical social and care supports.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support** of **HB2114**.