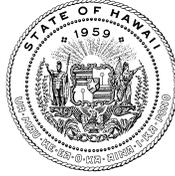


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA AINA



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

CHRISTINE M. SAKUDA
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
LUNA 'ENEHANA

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES | KE'ENA HO'OLANA 'ENEHANA
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
Friday, February 13, 2026

HOUSE BILL NO. 2114 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, 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.

ETS supports the concept of the benefits hub and believes it could be especially useful for our residents, but we think there are several complicated challenges that must be looked at closely for the benefits hub to be successful.

We suggest that a business-led task force comprised of state agencies involved in health benefits administration, be formed to define and develop the scope of what a benefits hub could look like.

ETS is happy to provide technical expertise such as governance, architecture, data management, and cybersecurity to develop and support the proposed benefits hub. ETS is concerned that building and maintaining this new tool will require the many departments involved to commit and invest significant resources, funding, and time to redesign existing business processes and supporting technology systems to effectively use such a benefits hub.

The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), a division of the Department of Accounting and General Services, serves as the backbone of Hawai'i's digital government by providing statewide IT governance, system modernization, and shared services to enhance efficiency, security, and service delivery across government departments. ETS ensures the reliability and security of statewide IT infrastructure, manages IT consolidation efforts, maintains critical systems like the state's mainframe and telecommunication networks, and strengthens cybersecurity

measures. Additionally, ETS supports business continuity and disaster recovery, advances data governance and responsible AI adoption, and oversees enterprise agreements for tools like Microsoft 365 and Adobe Sign to streamline workflows and improve collaboration.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
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TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

February 11, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2114 HD1 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.**

Hearing: February 13, 2026, Time 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 423, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent and vision of the bill and the Legislature's continued investment in improving the State's technology resources to improve residents' experiences and access to services. DHS provides comments and defers to the Office of Enterprise Technology Services. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not act to reduce or replace a priority identified in the executive budget.

DHS programs administering SNAP and Medicaid are actively planning and implementing necessary changes to their systems and processes to meet the programmatic requirements of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), Public Law 119–21, signed on July 4, 2025. OBBBA significantly changed federally funded safety net programs, amongst other things. For example, OBBBA expanded and added work compliance requirements as a condition of eligibility and continued eligibility for services under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid.

As such, 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 DHS receives their efforts toward program compliance. However, given the current SNAP and Medicaid timelines, if passed as drafted, this measure will require DHS staff focused on implementing OBBBA changes to provide direction on the Hub's development and to facilitate access to SNAP and Medicaid systems, as provided by existing law. While DHS appreciates the additional resources for State systems, at this time, it would be a significant lift for DHS to assume the duties proposed by this HD1.

In regard 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 aged 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).

As the session continues, DHS is open to discussing opportunities and solutions with ETS and the Legislature.

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



House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
February 13, 2026 at 8:30 AM
Room 423

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2114 HD1

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO), I am writing **support of HB2114 HD1**, 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 Economic Development and Technology
Friday, February 13, 2026; 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 423
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2114, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, 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, House Draft 1, 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.

This bill would take effect on July 1, 3000.

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, House Draft 1
Friday, February 13, 2026; 8:30 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: House Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Re: HB 2114 HD1 – Relating to Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol room 423 & Via Videoconference Friday,
February 12, 2026, 8:30 AM

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members,

Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) **strongly supports HB 2114**, which establishes a Hawai'i Benefits Hub to streamline access to public assistance programs and improve coordination across state agencies. This bill is both timely and necessary as Hawai'i prepares for potential federal changes to safety net programs under the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill."

Changes to SNAP and Medicaid requirements and reporting have increased administrative burden on state agencies and families alike. These changes could compromise eligibility causing undue gaps in coverage for families and children who are most in need. HB 2114 positions Hawai'i to respond proactively.

By modernizing and centralizing eligibility systems through a unified Benefits Hub, this bill would reduce fragmentation across programs and prevent eligible families from falling through the cracks. Improved data coordination can help ensure continuity of food, health, and housing assistance, particularly during periods of federal transition or policy change. It also strengthens compliance, efficiency, and fiscal accountability, should cost-sharing structures shift.

For Hawai'i's keiki, the stakes are high. Many of our keiki and families depend on SNAP to meet basic nutritional needs and Medicaid to access healthcare. When systems are cumbersome or poorly integrated, families experience delays or lose benefits for administrative reasons, not because they are ineligible.

HB 2114 directly addresses this challenge. A streamlined Benefits Hub will simplify applications, reduce duplicative paperwork, and create a more user-friendly process for working families navigating multiple programs. In a high-cost state like Hawai'i, where many parents juggle multiple jobs, efficiency in public systems is essential to family stability.

Importantly, investing in modernization now strengthens Hawai'i's resilience. If federal funding formulas change or reporting requirements increase, our state will be better equipped to protect vulnerable families and maintain uninterrupted access to critical supports.

HB 2114 is not simply an administrative reform. It is a child well-being measure that protects access to food, healthcare, and basic stability during uncertain times.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure. **Please SUPPORT HB 2114.**