

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2011

RE: S.B. No. 788  
S.D. 2

Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 788, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to ensure that patients who are waitlisted for long-term care receive appropriate medical care.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Requires the Department of Human Services to presume Medicaid eligibility for qualified patients who have been waitlisted for long-term care;
- (2) Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services for reimbursements for services provided during the time that patients who are waitlisted are enrolled in Medicaid and later disenrolled as a result of ineligibility; and
- (3) Requires the Department of Human Services to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a computerized system to process Medicaid applications.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from John M. Kirimitsu, Kaiser Permanente; and Christina



Donkervoet, Director of Care Coordination and Patient Flow, The Queen's Medical Center.

Your Committee received written comments in opposition to the measure from Patricia McManaman, Interim Director, Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that it costs Hawaii hospitals millions of dollars in lost revenues when there are delays in discharging patients who have applied for Medicaid and are waitlisted for long-term care. The discharge times range from a few days to more than a year for waitlisted patients who are deemed medically ready for discharge and are no longer in need of acute care services, but who cannot be discharged due to various barriers including delays in Medicaid eligibility determinations.

It puts a tremendous strain on the patient, the health care provider, and the overall health care service sector when waitlisted patients are ready for discharge, but must remain in acute care until their Medicaid applications are processed.

Developing a long-term solution to the problems associated with the Medicaid eligibility and re-eligibility determinations will ease some of the burden on Hawaii hospitals and improve the quality of life for patients who then become eligible for an earlier discharge.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified sum;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for style, clarity, and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 788, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 788, S.D. 2.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

*David Y. Ige*

---

DAVID Y. IGE, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**WAM**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 788, SD1</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HMS, WAM</i>	Date: <i>2-25-11</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
IGE, David Y. (C)	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	/			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	/			
ESPERO, Will	/			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado				/
KAHELE, Gilbert	/			
KOUCHI, Ronald D.				/
RYAN, Pohai	/			
TOKUDA, Jill N.	/			
WAKAI, Glenn	/			
SLOM, Sam			/	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Michelle N. Kidani</i>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original             Yellow             Pink             Goldenrod File with Committee Report             Clerk's Office             Drafting Agency             Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes