

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 8, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Hawaii State Department of Education Annual Report on Medicaid Reimbursements

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, a copy of the Medicaid Reimbursements report is being transmitted, pursuant to Act 167, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the report may also be viewed electronically at:

<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/VisionForSuccess/SchoolDataAndReports/StateReports/Pages/Legislative-reports.aspx>

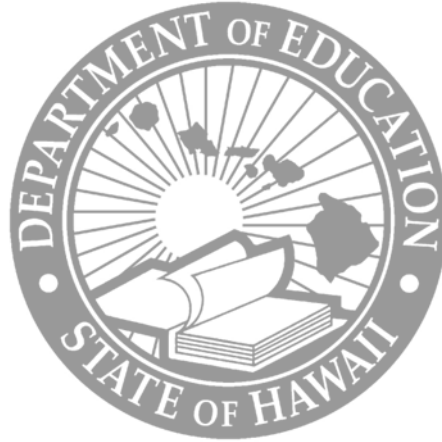
Should you have any questions, please contact Ken Kakesako, Director of the Policy, Innovation, Planning and Evaluation Branch, Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance, via email at ken.kakesako@k12.hi.us or by phone at (808) 282-3430.

Sincerely,

Keith T. Hayashi
Superintendent

KTH:ak
Attachment

c: Legislative Reference Bureau
Hawaii State Public Library System
University of Hawaii
Office of Student Support Services



State of Hawaii
Department of Education

Medicaid Reimbursements

April 2024

Act 167, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2023, requires the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) to report on Medicaid reimbursements. The report should identify the status of implementing Medicaid reimbursements for applied behavior analysis services provided in public schools.

Medicaid Reimbursements for Applied Behavior Analysis Services

Currently, there are approximately 324 Medicaid-eligible students who receive applied behavior analysis (ABA) services throughout the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department).

The Department met with the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division (MQD) on September 27, 2023, to receive clarification regarding clinical supervision requirements outlined in MQD's January 13, 2023 memorandum. During this meeting, MQD clarified that the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's (BACB) criteria and standards for the clinical supervision of a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) meet MQD's minimum requirements. It was established that clinical supervision provided throughout the Department meets MQD requirements as it already follows the BACB's criteria and standards.

The Department is reviewing current medical documentation for these students to ensure they are aligned with Medicaid standards for reimbursement. It is anticipated that the review of medical documentation and any subsequent changes in processes or practices in how/what documentation is obtained to meet Medicaid standards will be completed by February 29, 2024.

The Department is currently in its pilot phase of implementing a virtual platform to assist with the scheduling, documentation, and billing of ABA services. When fully implemented, the platform will capture all the requisite student, provider, and service information to streamline the process of school-based direct service claiming for ABA services and to ensure all services meet the Medicaid requirements for reimbursement. The system is currently capturing all ABA services data for the pilot students and providers. The Department is evaluating if the current configuration of the software is optimal for extracting claims. It is anticipated that the Department will begin to submit direct service claims for Medicaid reimbursement for ABA services starting June 2024.

The Department has been claiming for all ABA service providers under administrative claiming since October 1, 2022.