

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

1915(c) Medicaid Waiver for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD Waiver)

This document contains a summary of the public comments collected in response to the 1915(c) Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Waiver Renewal. This renewal included: revisions of certain service definitions to align with federal definitions; increases in some service limits to allow for more flexibility; addition of two new services to allow participants to age in place; addition of Training and Consultation by a Behavior Analyst as a service available to participants in an acute-care hospital for transition purposes; updates to the provider monitoring process; and addition of three (3) new supplemental payments.

Public comment was taken from January 16, 2026, through March 3, 2026. A notice regarding the I/DD Waiver Renewal was posted in Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Hawaii Tribune Herald, West Hawaii Today, Honolulu Star-Advertiser Maui, and The Garden Island. The public notice, as well as the link to a copy of the waiver renewal, was posted on the Department of Human Service, Med-QUEST Division (DHS/MQD) website medquest.hawaii.gov and the Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division (DOH/DDD) website health.hawaii.gov/ddd. A printed copy of the I/DD Waiver Renewal and special accommodations (i.e., interpreter, large print or taped materials) was available upon request. In accordance with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance, interested members of the public were given 47 days to submit written comments by mail or email from January 16, 2026, through March 3, 2026.

During the public comment period, the State received three (3) written comments.

Appendix I-2 Rates, Billing and Claims: Comments in this section relate to Waiver service rates.

Comment: A Waiver service provider submitted two (2) comments requesting a re-evaluation of the proposed rate for the new service Personal Care Assistance (PCA). The commenter noted that PCA for participants with SIS levels 5-7 have high general supports needs, extraordinary medical needs, and extraordinary behavior support needs. This will require more attentive and trained direct support professionals (DSPs) and a higher level of monitoring. The lower rate may cause providers to experience serious staffing challenges. Request PCA rate parity with current Personal Assistance/Habilitation (PAB) rates or similar services with QUEST Integration.

Response: The State has adjusted the rate methodology to incorporate this feedback, resulting in a higher rate for PCA.

Appendix I-3 Payment: Comments in this section relate to the addition of supplemental payments.

Comment: Two (2) Waiver service providers submitted comments in support of the addition of supplemental payments. The supplemental payments assist to expand supported living options, employment outcomes, and career laddering for the DSP workforce. The DSP certification helps

to stabilize the workforce and strengthen long-term system capacity. Clear guidance on the timeline and the billing process is requested.

Response: The State appreciates the comments that support the State’s intent for the supplemental payments: expanding residential options on the neighbor islands; increasing employment outcomes; and increasing quality of service and improving DSP recruitment and retention. Additional guidance will be issued prior to the Waiver renewal effective date.