1. Why is the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) seeking partial reimbursement from Medicaid?

Federal law allows certain Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) school-based health-related services included in a student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) to be partially reimbursed by Medicaid for students who are eligible for medical assistance through the state Medicaid agency, Med-QUEST.

2. What can the Department seek reimbursement from Medicaid for?

The Department can only seek reimbursement for medically necessary and educationally necessary, health-related services that are identified in a student’s IEP for students who are eligible for medical assistance through Med-QUEST. Services that the Department may currently seek partial reimbursement through Med-QUEST may include: evaluations, physical therapy, occupational therapy, audiology services, speech language therapy, assistive technology services, skilled nursing services, and behavioral health services.

3. How does the Department use the money it receives from Medicaid?

The Department uses funds reimbursed by Med-QUEST to support education activities and needs.

4. Does the Department need parental consent to bill Medicaid?

Yes. The Department is required to obtain parental consent before it can claim reimbursement through Med-QUEST for medically necessary and educationally necessary, health-related service identified in a student’s IEP.

5. Will the Department bill my private insurance as well?

No. The Department will not bill private insurance for any services contained in a student’s IEP.

6. If the Department seeks reimbursement from Medicaid, will Medicaid services that my child receives outside of school be affected?

No. Medicaid services received outside of the school setting and beyond the school day are not eligible for reimbursement as they are authorized separately. If outside services have been affected, families should contact the Department’s Health Care Contracts & Reimbursement program at (808) 305-9787.

7. Does this process impact the IEP services my child will receive?

No. This process does not deny or in any way limit any IEP services for a student.