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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WOMEN'S HEALTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that improving the health  
2 of women in the state can improve the quality of health for  
3 families and the community. Nationwide, more than 20,000,000  
4 low-income women receive health coverage and long-term care  
5 through medicaid, the nation's public health insurance program  
6 for the low-income population. Although medicaid is not  
7 typically considered a women's health program, 69 per cent of  
8 its adult beneficiaries are women. Medicaid provides a wide  
9 range of health services for women including primary care,  
10 pregnancy care, reproductive health care, care for chronic  
11 conditions and disabilities, assistance with medicare costs, and  
12 long-term care. In general, compared to the total population,  
13 women participants in the medicaid program tend to be poor,  
14 minorities, and mothers. In Hawaii, the medicaid program is  
15 implemented through the Hawaii QUEST program.

16           According to data on 52,932 women in Hawaii who gave birth  
17 to children from 2004 to 2006, women enrolled in the Hawaii  
18 QUEST health insurance program were, compared with other women



1 who have recently given birth but were covered under other  
2 health insurance:

3 (1) Three times less likely to access prenatal care in the  
4 first trimester of pregnancy;

5 (2) Just as likely to have their infants receive their  
6 first well-baby check, but twice as likely not to have  
7 received the recommended post-partum check for new  
8 mothers;

9 (3) One-and-a-half times more likely to have an unintended  
10 pregnancy;

11 (4) At three to four times and two to three times higher  
12 risk of being abused before becoming pregnant by their  
13 former and current spouses, respectively;

14 (5) At three to four times higher risk of experiencing  
15 intimate partner violence while pregnant;

16 (6) One-and-a-half times more likely to require dental  
17 services during pregnancy;

18 (7) Three times more likely to smoke during the last three  
19 months of pregnancy;

20 (8) Three to four times more likely to use illicit drugs  
21 during pregnancy;

22 (9) Twice as likely to experience post-partum depression;



1 (10) Twice as likely not to have initiated breastfeeding;  
2 and

3 (11) Ten per cent more likely to have a low birthweight or  
4 premature infant.

5 The legislature also finds that pregnancies that recur  
6 within a short period of time place great stress on mothers and  
7 their infants. Interconception care, or the full scope of  
8 preventive and primary care services for women between  
9 pregnancies, provides additional intensive interventions to  
10 women who have had a previous pregnancy that ended in an adverse  
11 outcome, which is an important predictor of future reproductive  
12 risk.

13 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
14 human services to apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and  
15 Medicaid Services to extend post-partum and interconception care  
16 from eight weeks to at least six months for women who  
17 participate in the Hawaii QUEST program.

18 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall  
19 apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
20 to amend the state medicaid plan to extend post-partum and  
21 interconception care from eight weeks to a minimum of six months  
22 for women who participate in the Hawaii QUEST program, to allow



1 the state to receive federal reimbursement. For the purpose of  
2 this section, the term "interconception care" means the full  
3 scope of preventive and primary care services for women between  
4 pregnancies.

5 (b) The department of human services shall report to the  
6 legislature upon receiving a response from the Centers for  
7 Medicare and Medicaid Services on the requested amendment to the  
8 state medicaid plan.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 2761  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Post-partum and Interconception Care; QUEST

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Human services to apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to extend post-partum and interconception care from eight weeks to at least six months for women who participate in the Hawaii QUEST program. (HB2761 CD1)

HB2761 CD1 HMS 2008-4041

