
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. Although estimates of the rate of uninsured
2 children in the state vary, one thing that can be agreed upon is
3 that there is a gap group that is ineligible for any state or
4 federal health care coverage. Children who remain uninsured
5 typically do not receive an appropriate level of medical care.
6 Children who lack a source of care or must turn regularly to a
7 hospital emergency department are unlikely to receive preventive
8 care or early and regular management of acute or chronic health
9 conditions.

10 A study performed by the Urban Institute, a nonpartisan
11 economic and social policy research organization, showed that
12 regardless of age, race, ethnicity, income or health status,
13 uninsured children were much less likely to have received a
14 well-child checkup within the past year and were more likely
15 than insured children to report an unmet need for medical care
16 that was associated with concerns about cost.

17 Health insurance helps children and youth get regular
18 health care so they can participate in school and other



1 activities. Often parents experience hardship when an uninsured
2 child is sick because of the added stress of the child's medical
3 bills.

4 Children's plans are offered by local health care coverage
5 providers that cover certain preventive services, immunizations,
6 doctor visits, diagnostic tests, emergency care, mental health
7 benefits, and some prescription drugs.

8 The State has the opportunity to help provide health care
9 coverage for children in the gap group through partnerships with
10 mutual benefit societies such as the Hawaii Medical Service
11 Association. Such partnerships will allow the State to offer
12 coverage to uninsured children under the existing children's
13 plans offered by these mutual benefits societies. The cost of
14 the premium will be split equally between the partner mutual
15 benefit society and the State.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish the Hawaii
17 children's health care program, as a temporary three-year pilot
18 program, to provide health care coverage to uninsured children.

19 **SECTION 2. Hawaii children's health care program; three-**
20 **year pilot program; establishment.** (a) There is established
21 the Hawaii children's health care program as a temporary three-
22 year pilot program, to provide health care coverage to uninsured



1 children. The pilot program shall provide health care coverage
2 through a public-private partnership, established pursuant to
3 chapter 103F, between the department of human services and a
4 mutual benefit society operating in the state under chapter 432,
5 Hawaii Revised Statutes, that offers accident and health or
6 sickness insurance plans.

7 (b) To qualify for this program, a child shall:

8 (1) Be a Hawaii resident continually for at least six
9 months and be between the ages of three months to
10 eighteen years;

11 (2) Have been uninsured continually for at least six
12 months; and

13 (3) Be ineligible to qualify for any other state or
14 federal health care coverage.

15 (c) The department of human services and the mutual
16 benefit society shall share equally in the cost of the premium
17 for each child enrolled in the pilot program.

18 (d) The department of human services shall pay the State's
19 share of the premiums under the pilot program on a quarterly
20 basis.

21 (e) The mutual benefit society participating in the pilot
22 program shall provide a quarterly report to the department of



1 human services and the legislature on the number of children
2 enrolled in the children's health care program.

3 (f) Other private organizations may partner with the State
4 to offer coverage to uninsured children under the Hawaii
5 children's health care program; provided that the plan benefits
6 to be provided shall be equal to or better than those offered by
7 the pilot program established by the State and a mutual benefit
8 society in subsection (a).

9 (g) The Hawaii children's health care program shall
10 terminate on June 30, 2009.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for
14 the Hawaii children's health care program pursuant to this Act.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 human services for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006, and
18 shall be repealed on June 30, 2009.



Report Title:

Children's Health Care Program

Description:

Creates a temporary 3-year Hawaii children's health care pilot program in which the DHS pays half the premiums for health care provided by HMSA to children aged three months to eighteen years who are uninsured continually for six months and are ineligible for any other state or federal health care coverage.

Appropriates \$ for FY 2006-2007. Repealed 6/30/09.

(HB3116 HD1)

