
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DENTAL CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that eligible persons
2 under twenty-one years of age receive full dental coverage under
3 medicaid and QUEST, whereas dental coverage for eligible persons
4 twenty-one years of age or older is limited to dental
5 emergencies.

6 Poor dental hygiene is related to many medical ailments,
7 including digestive problems, heart disease, mouth and throat
8 infections, and other chronic health problems. Dentists are
9 often the first to recognize symptoms of disease otherwise
10 undetected by physicians. According to the Hawaiian Islands
11 Oral Health Task Force, many of Hawaii's adults suffer from
12 dental disease and the uninsured, low-income adult and disabled
13 populations suffer disproportionately.

14 It is unreasonable to require adult recipients of medicaid
15 and QUEST to wait until a dental condition is dire, and
16 potentially more costly, before it will be covered.

17 The purpose of this Act is to expand coverage under
18 medicaid and QUEST to include comprehensive dental care coverage



1 for eligible persons twenty-one years of age or older and to
2 appropriate funds to provide the additional coverage.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§346- Dental care coverage. The department shall
7 provide comprehensive coverage to medicaid and QUEST recipients
8 for dental care administered by licensed practitioners under
9 chapters 447 and 448.

10 The department shall administer this benefit in a manner
11 that meets federal requirements that are a condition of the
12 receipt of federal funds by the State.

13 For purposes of this section "comprehensive coverage" means
14 the dental benefit as defined in the Hawaii state plan for
15 medicaid."

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to
19 expand coverage under medicaid and QUEST to include
20 comprehensive dental care coverage for persons twenty-one years
21 of age or older.

1 SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
2 department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



Report Title:

Medical Assistance; Adult Dental Care

Description:

Expands coverage under the State's medicaid and QUEST programs to include comprehensive dental care for adults and appropriates funds to provide the additional coverage. (SD1)

