

JAN 25 2006

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKES AN APPROPRIATION FOR A GRANT TO GLOBAL MEDILINK TECHNOLOGY
INC. FOR THE ORAL HEALTH INSTITUTE OF THE PACIFIC PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Oral Health
2 Institute of the Pacific program was opened in 2004 to increase
3 access to oral health services by providing clinical dental
4 services and case management to special needs patients, and
5 underserved children and adults. These underserved children and
6 adults are medicaid, QUEST, or SCHIP recipients or are uninsured
7 and have not had access to oral health services in many years.
8 The underserved population includes geriatric patients, children
9 with special needs, adult mental health patients, renal dialysis
10 patients, heart transplant patients, persons with HIV/AIDS,
11 former inmates, and the homeless.

12 The underserved population by and large cannot access
13 dental services in their communities. This is due to dentist
14 non-participation with Med-QUEST, low medicaid program
15 reimbursement rates for dental services at only twenty-five per
16 cent of the cost of treatment, and excessive paperwork for
17 billing medicaid. Accordingly, the number of dental providers



1 who actively treat these patients is alarmingly small. On Maui,
2 there are fewer than five dentists who see these 14,765
3 patients. Approximately half are children under age twenty-one.
4 One pediatric dentist who practices on Maui participates with
5 Med-QUEST. Sometimes, children are flown to Oahu, accompanied
6 by a parent or guardian, for dental treatment. This requires
7 extensive coordination and case management and can be very
8 traumatic for the patient, and costly to the State.

9 The Oral Health Institute of the Pacific program is
10 addressing the serious challenges of access to oral health
11 services for the underserved that are not being addressed in the
12 private sector. Residents of Maui county, in particular
13 children under age twenty-one, as well as adults who are
14 returning to the workforce, will be able to have a "dental
15 home," resulting in decreased pain and infection, and an
16 increased ability to concentrate on school and work, eliminating
17 numerous absences. The Oral Health Institute of the Pacific's
18 oral health team provides the clinical expertise and critical
19 link between the medical and dental communities and the
20 underserved people of Maui county.

21 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for a
22 grant to Global Medilink Technology Inc. for the Oral Health



1 Institute of the Pacific program so it can continue to operate
2 dental clinics and provide dental services for QUEST, SCHIP, and
3 Medicaid recipients, and the uninsured who cannot find dental
4 services in the private sector on Maui.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$350,000, or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, as grants
8 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to Global
9 Medilink Technology Inc. for the Oral Health Institute of the
10 Pacific program, for continued operations of dental clinics for
11 direct dental services for QUEST, SCHIP, and Medicaid
12 recipients, and the uninsured on the island of Maui.

13 SECTION 3. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
14 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Rosely A. Baker

Handwritten signatures:
D.S.T.L.
Bunee. Kohrt
J. Keizer
D. Kanano
Guy L. Han
Franne Chun Oakland
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Report Title:

Global Medilink Technology Inc.; Maui; Dental Clinics and Services; GIA

Description:

Makes an appropriation for a grant to Global Medilink Technology Inc. for continued operations of the Oral Health Institute of the Pacific program for dental clinics and services on the island of Maui for QUEST, SCHIP, and Medicaid recipients, and uninsured who cannot find dental services in the private sector.

