
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 twenty
4 million low-income women receive health coverage and long-term
5 care through medicaid, the nation's public health insurance
6 program for the low-income population. Although medicaid is not
7 typically considered a women's health program, sixty-nine per
8 cent of its adult beneficiaries are women. Medicaid provides a
9 wide 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 QUEST program.

16 According to data on 52,932 women in Hawaii who gave birth
17 to children from 2004 to 2006, compared with other women who
18 have recently given birth but were covered under other health



1 insurance, similar women under Hawaii's QUEST health insurance
2 program were:

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 are twice as likely not to
7 have received the recommended post-partum check for
8 new 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 extend post-partum and
14 interconception care from eight weeks to six months for all
15 women of childbearing age who participate in Hawaii's QUEST
16 program.

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

20 "§346- QUEST program; post-partum and interconception
21 care; definition; rules. (a) Each female participant of
22 childbearing age under the QUEST program shall be provided with



1 not less than six months of post-partum and interconception
2 care.

3 (b) For the purpose of this section, the term
4 "interconception care" means the full scope of preventive and
5 primary care services for women between pregnancies.

6 (c) The department shall adopt rules to implement the
7 purposes of this section, including determining the age range of
8 childbearing women."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
12 providing not less than six months of post-partum and
13 interconception care for women of childbearing age who
14 participate in Hawaii's QUEST program.

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

17 SECTION 4 New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,
19 except that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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Report Title:

Post-partum and Interconception Care; QUEST

Description:

Requires not less than 6 months post-partum and interconception care for women of childbearing age who are participants in the Hawaii QUEST health insurance program. Defines "interconception care." Requires department of human services to adopt rules. Appropriation.

