
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A SMOKING CESSATION BENEFIT TO
HAWAII QUEST BENEFICIARIES.

1 WHEREAS, smoking remains a major health issue for Hawaii's
2 diverse people and results in more than eleven hundred deaths in
3 the State each year; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Department of Health reports that in Hawaii,
6 over seventeen per cent of adults and more than fourteen per
7 cent of high school students smoke cigarettes; and
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii's smoking-related health and medical costs
10 total \$262,000,000 annually, of which \$91,000,000 is estimated
11 to be Medicaid-related; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
14 reports that smoking-attributable neonatal expenditures in
15 Hawaii total \$702,330 over one year and that these costs are
16 completely preventable; and
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18 WHEREAS, helping pregnant women quit smoking would have
19 enormous health benefits, including reducing tobacco-related
20 spontaneous abortions, rates of low-birthweight infants,
21 admissions to neonatal intensive care units, infant deaths from
22 perinatal disorders, and sudden infant death syndrome; and
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24 WHEREAS, although the smoking rate among pregnant women in
25 Hawaii is a relatively low 7.1 per cent, this high-risk behavior
26 still impacts the lives of 1,200 babies every year; and
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28 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian women were more likely than other
29 ethnic groups to smoke in the three months before pregnancy and
30 during the third trimester, according to the statewide Pregnancy
31 Risk Assessment Monitoring System; and



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WHEREAS, many of the State's Medicaid beneficiaries are members of ethnic groups with traditionally high smoking prevalence rates, such as Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the QUEST program, which provides health coverage through health plans for eligible Hawaii residents, provides medical coverage to pregnant women whose gross monthly household income is no more than 185 per cent of the Federal Poverty Level; and

WHEREAS, as of 2005, thirty-eight states' Medicaid programs offered program recipients at least one form of tobacco-dependence treatment, such as counseling or medication, but few states' Medicaid programs covered both medication and counseling as recommended by the 2000 Public Health Service clinical practice guidelines; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve the 2010 National Health Objective, states, including Hawaii, should offer or increase Medicaid coverage for treatment of tobacco dependence; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has considered a proposal to expand the scope of the QUEST program to include all Medicaid beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, regardless of whether legislation is passed during the Regular Session of 2008, the Department of Human Services, which administers QUEST, should consider ways to provide smoking cessation counseling services to all Hawaii Medicaid beneficiaries; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, that the Department of Human Services is requested to collect data and conduct a feasibility study of developing and implementing a program to provide counseling treatment to all QUEST beneficiaries wishing to quit smoking; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
2 Services is requested to report its finding and recommendations
3 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
4 convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.

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OFFERED BY:

John M. ...
Karen ...
Tom Brower
Shirley H. ...
John ...

MAR 10 2008

