

JAN 22 2007

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that currently, the  
2 department of human services provides state-funded medical  
3 assistance to children, of up to two hundred fifty per cent of  
4 the federal poverty level, at no charge to a child's family.  
5 Families that fall into the range of two hundred fifty to three  
6 hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, are charged a  
7 sliding scale premium for medical assistance for their children.  
8 However, even these low cost premiums can pose a financial  
9 hardship for some families.

10           Children who remain uninsured typically do not receive an  
11 appropriate level of medical care. Children who lack a regular  
12 source of medical care, or who must rely on receiving medical  
13 care from a hospital emergency department, are unlikely to  
14 receive preventive care or early and regular management of acute  
15 or chronic health conditions.

16           Raising the eligibility threshold for children to receive  
17 state-funded medical assistance to three hundred per cent of the



1 federal poverty level will enable close to two thousand children  
2 to become eligible for medical assistance and will enable their  
3 families to relinquish this financial burden.

4 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
5 human services to provide state-funded medical assistance, of up  
6 to three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, to  
7 persons less than nineteen years of age at no cost and to  
8 appropriate funds for the provision of this additional medical  
9 assistance.

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

13 "§346- Medical assistance to children. (a) The  
14 department shall provide state-funded medical assistance, of up  
15 to three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, at no  
16 cost to persons less than nineteen years of age who are eligible  
17 for benefits under the State's medicaid programs, including  
18 QUEST and the State's children health insurance program."

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,600,000, or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and



1 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2008-2009, for the purposes of this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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**Report Title:**

Health; Children

**Description:**

Requires the department of human services to provide state-funded medical assistance, of up to three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, to persons less than nineteen years of age at no cost; appropriates funds for this purpose.

