

JAN 18 2008

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is in the State's  
2 best interests to ensure that women receive appropriate  
3 interconception care following a pregnancy. In a report  
4 presented to the Hawaii women's legislative caucus,  
5 interconception care was defined as "a set of interventions that  
6 aim to identify and modify biomedical, behavioral, and social  
7 risks to a woman's health or pregnancy outcome through  
8 prevention and management." Interconception care refers to the  
9 set of care services between pregnancies.

10           By improving the health of women before the next pregnancy,  
11 preconception and interconception care can improve the health of  
12 the woman and her infant(s). Among other department of health  
13 pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system data analysis  
14 findings presented to the Hawaii women's legislative caucus:

15           (1) Women on QUEST are three times less likely to access  
16 prenatal care in their first trimester of pregnancy;



- 1           (2) Compared to women with other health coverage, women  
2           with QUEST coverage are 1.5 times more likely to have  
3           an unintended pregnancy, three times more likely to  
4           smoke during their last trimester of pregnancy, and  
5           three to four times more likely to use illicit drugs;
- 6           (3) Compared to recently-delivering women with other  
7           health coverage, women with QUEST coverage are twice  
8           as likely to experience postpartum sadness or  
9           depression and ten per cent more likely to have a low  
10          birthweight or prematurely born infant;
- 11          (4) Compared to recently-delivering women with other  
12          health coverage, women on QUEST were at three to four  
13          times higher risk of experiencing intimate partner  
14          violence while pregnant; and
- 15          (5) Compared to recently-delivering women with other  
16          health coverage, women on QUEST were just as likely to  
17          have their infants receive their first well-baby  
18          check, but were two times more likely not to have  
19          received the recommended post-partum check for new  
20          mothers.

21 This data indicates that women with QUEST coverage are at  
22 increased risk for poor pregnancy outcomes for their current, as



1 well as their future offspring. Improving interconception  
2 health can result in improved reproductive health outcomes, with  
3 potential for reducing societal costs as well. Interconception  
4 care is intended to promote the health of women of reproductive  
5 age before their next pregnancy, which can improve pregnancy-  
6 related outcomes.

7 The State's QUEST program presently serves over 3,300  
8 pregnant women a year, and covers the pregnant women for up to  
9 sixty days after delivery. The legislature believes that it  
10 would be in the best interests of the State for QUEST coverage  
11 to be extended for six months following a pregnancy.

12 The purpose of this Act is to expand the period of coverage  
13 under QUEST for interconception care services for six months  
14 post-pregnancy.

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

18 "§346- Interconception care coverage. The department  
19 shall provide comprehensive coverage to pregnant QUEST  
20 recipients for interconception care for a period of up to six  
21 months post-pregnancy.



1        The department shall administer this benefit in a manner  
2 that meets federal requirements that are a condition of the  
3 receipt of federal funds by the State.

4        For purposes of this section:

5        "Comprehensive coverage" means the full scope of preventive  
6 and primary care services for women following a pregnancy.

7        "Interconception care" means a set of interventions that  
8 aim to identify and modify biomedical, behavioral, and social  
9 risks to a woman's health or pregnancy outcome through  
10 prevention and management."

11        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to  
14 expand the QUEST coverage for interconception care for pregnant  
15 women for six months post-pregnancy.

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

18        SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

19        SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Enzanne Chim Alalana*



**Report Title:**

QUEST; Coverage for Post-Pregnancy Interconception Care;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Expands QUEST coverage for post-pregnancy interconception care  
to up to six months. Appropriates funds for this purpose.

