
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 by the
5 department of health, based upon pregnancy risk assessment
6 monitoring system data analysis findings, interconception care
7 was defined as "a set of interventions that aim to identify and
8 modify biomedical, behavioral, and social risks to a woman's
9 health or pregnancy outcome through prevention and management."
10 Interconception care refers to the set of care services between
11 pregnancies.

12 By improving the health of women before the next pregnancy,
13 preconception and interconception care can improve the health of
14 the women and their infants. Among other department of health
15 findings presented to the Hawaii women's legislative caucus were
16 that:



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



1 received the recommended post-partum check for new
2 mothers.

3 This data indicates that women with QUEST coverage are at
4 increased risk for poor pregnancy outcomes for their current, as
5 well as, their future offspring. Improving interconception
6 health can result in improved reproductive health outcomes and
7 has the potential to reduce societal costs as well.
8 Interconception care is intended to promote the health of women
9 of reproductive age before their next pregnancy, which can
10 improve pregnancy-related outcomes.

11 The State's QUEST program presently serves over
12 thirty-three hundred pregnant women a year and covers the
13 pregnant women for up to sixty days after delivery. The
14 legislature finds that it would be in the best interests of the
15 State for QUEST coverage to be extended for up to six months
16 following a pregnancy.

17 The purpose of this Act is to expand the period of coverage
18 under QUEST for post-partum and interconception care services
19 for up to six months post-pregnancy.

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



1 "§346- Interconception care coverage. (a) The
2 department shall provide comprehensive coverage to pregnant
3 QUEST recipients for post-partum and interconception care for up
4 to six months post-pregnancy.

5 The department shall administer this benefit in a manner
6 that meets the federal requirements that are a condition of the
7 receipt of federal funds by the State.

8 (b) For purposes of this section:

9 "Comprehensive coverage" means the full scope of preventive
10 and primary care services for a woman following a pregnancy.

11 "Interconception care" means a set of interventions that
12 aim to identify and modify biomedical, behavioral, and social
13 risks to a woman's health or pregnancy outcome through
14 prevention and management.

15 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the
16 department shall make appropriate adjustments to the rate of
17 payment per participating recipient paid to health maintenance
18 organizations and prepaid health plans pursuant to section 346-
19 59(d), to allow for post-partum and interconception care
20 coverage to QUEST recipients as defined in this section,
21 administered by a person licensed to practice medicine under
22 chapter 453 or 460. Health maintenance organizations and



1 prepaid health plans shall not be required to increase coverage
2 to QUEST recipients for post-partum and interconception care
3 administered to QUEST recipients, as defined in this section,
4 administered by a person licensed to practice under chapter 453
5 or 460 until the department makes adjustments to the rate of
6 payment per participating recipient."

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to
10 expand the QUEST coverage for post-partum and interconception
11 care for pregnant women for up to six months post-pregnancy.

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

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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



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.
(SB2219 SD2)

