

FEB 28 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR THE QUEST-ACE HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, improving Hawaii's healthcare safety net is a
2 sensible goal that results in a healthier community; and
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4 WHEREAS, a three-year survey conducted between 2003-2005
5 indicated that approximately 13 percent of adults age 19-64 were
6 uninsured, or more than 99,000 people; and
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8 WHEREAS, although Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act requires
9 employers to provide insurance coverage to employees who work at
10 least 20 hours per week, there is a gap group of uninsured
11 adults; and
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13 WHEREAS, this gap group includes the working poor who have
14 part-time jobs and don't earn enough to pay for private
15 insurance programs, but their incomes make them ineligible to
16 participate in existing state programs; and
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18 WHEREAS, QUEST-ACE (Adult Coverage Expansion) is a health
19 insurance program designed to cover up to 20,000 gap group
20 adults; and
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22 WHEREAS, QUEST-ACE is open to adults with children, the
23 blind and disabled, and some small business owners; and
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25 WHEREAS, QUEST-ACE includes a variety of benefits and
26 services, including outpatient visits, inpatient hospital days,
27 mental health visits, and limited prescription drug and dental
28 benefits; and
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30 WHEREAS, language and interpreter services are also
31 included, a much-needed benefit for those with limited English-
32 speaking skills; and



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1 WHEREAS, the burden on overcrowded emergency rooms will be
2 eased since insurance coverage will encourage early,
3 preventative health care; and

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5 WHEREAS, coverage provided under QUEST-ACE will likely
6 result in savings to hospitals that lose an estimated
7 \$150,000,000 per year providing care to the uninsured or
8 underinsured; and

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10 WHEREAS, an innovative program such as QUEST-ACE needs to
11 be adequately publicized to the approximately 99,000 uninsured
12 adults in Hawaii; now, therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
16 that this body urges the Department of Human Services (DHS) to
17 conduct a public awareness campaign for the QUEST-ACE health
18 insurance program; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in its public awareness campaign,
21 DHS is requested to create literature that could be included in
22 utility statements such as gas, water, and electric bills, and
23 posters or flyers that could be posted at all University of
24 Hawaii system campuses, community health centers, welfare
25 service centers, and nonprofit human service organizations; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.

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OFFERED BY: *Frances Chun Allard*

