
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2007, was
2 enacted to provide health care coverage for children in Hawaii
3 who fell in a gap group that was uninsured for a variety of
4 reasons, including infants born to uninsured mothers, immigrants
5 with temporary visas, and undocumented immigrants who have been
6 in Hawaii for less than six months. Act 236 established the
7 Hawaii children's health care program commonly known as keiki
8 care.

9 Funding for keiki care was suspended during the latter part
10 of 2008, although one insurance carrier agreed to fund the
11 program until December 31, 2008. The legislature finds that
12 although funding is required to maintain keiki care, it reduces
13 costs that may arise when emergency care is relied upon as a
14 primary health care provider. Health insurance is essential to
15 provide preventive care and reduce visits to emergency rooms and
16 urgent care centers.



1 The purpose of this Act is to extend the health programs
2 for children established in Act 236, SLH 2007, to June 30, 2012,
3 and appropriate funds for the keiki care program.

4 SECTION 2. Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, is
5 amended by amending section 14 to read as follows:


6 "SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect ~~upon~~ on July 1,
7 2007; provided that on June 30, [~~2010,~~] 2012, this Act shall be
8 repealed and section 346-59.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be
9 reenacted in the form in which it read on the day before the
10 effective date of this Act."

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$700,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the
14 sum of \$900,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for
15 fiscal year 2010-2011 to fund the Hawaii children's health care
16 program established under Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
18 of human services for the purposes of section 3 of Act 236,
19 Session Laws of Hawaii 2007.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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INTRODUCED BY:
HB HMS 2009-1215

JAN 23 200

Report Title:

Children's Health Care Program; Appropriations

Description:

Lengthens the pilot program established under Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, to expand health care coverage for children living in Hawaii. Appropriates funds.

