
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEMPORARY HEALTH INSURANCE FOR UNEMPLOYED PERSONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Current economic conditions, both nationally
2 and worldwide, have had a tremendous affect on the state's
3 primary industry, tourism, and has caused a ripple effect that
4 has been felt in all sectors of our economy.

5 The downturn in our visitor industry, as well as our
6 economy in general, has caused significant numbers of our
7 residents to become victims of employment furloughs, layoffs,
8 reduced work hours, and terminations. While some of those who
9 have lost their jobs may obtain some financial relief through
10 unemployment insurance benefits, they may not, for financial or
11 other reasons, be able to continue their health care insurance
12 coverage.

13 Moreover, global events continue to affect our already
14 tenuous economic situation. Although the state, and our nation,
15 will once again experience prosperous times, our foreseeable
16 economic future is uncertain. The legislature finds that by
17 assisting those in need through the maintenance of health



1 insurance, the economic impact of having a large population of
2 medically uninsured persons will be lessened.

3 The purpose of this Act is to help persons who no longer
4 qualify for health insurance because of loss of full-time
5 employment maintain health care coverage by providing a
6 temporary health insurance program.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is established in the department of
8 human services the temporary health insurance for unemployed or
9 underemployed persons program to provide temporary health care
10 coverage for persons who have lost health insurance coverage due
11 to lost employment or reduction in hours.

12 To be eligible to participate in this program the person
13 shall:

14 (1) Have lost the person's health insurance as a result of
15 a furlough, layoff, reduced work hours, or termination
16 of employment;

17 (2) Not be eligible for any health insurance coverage from
18 another source; and

19 (3) Agree to pay for the costs of the person's coverage
20 premium.

21 This program shall have a benefit package similar to the basic
22 benefits provided in the department of human services' QUEST-Net



1 program and shall be administered by the department of human
2 services.

3 (b) The director of human services shall submit a report
4 to the legislature not less than twenty days prior to the
5 convening of the regular session of 2010 reviewing the effects
6 the temporary health insurance for unemployed and underemployed
7 persons program has had on ensuring the availability of
8 continuous health care for eligible participants.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general funds
10 of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof
11 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the sum of
12 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2010-2011 for administration of the program established by
14 this Act; provided that only moneys received by the State and
15 deposited into the state general fund pursuant to the federal
16 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 may be expended
17 for the purposes of this Act.

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

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

Report Title:

Health Insurance

Description:

Provides temporary health insurance for unemployed persons who lost their health insurance. (SB1205 HD1)

