
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 be victims of employment furloughs, layoffs,
8 reduced work hours, and terminations. While these former
9 employees may obtain some financial relief through unemployment
10 insurance benefits, they may not, for financial or other
11 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 economic future
16 is uncertain for the foreseeable future. The legislature finds
17 that by assisting those in need through the maintenance of

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

3 The purpose of this Act is to help unemployed persons to
4 maintain health care coverage by providing a temporary health
5 insurance program.

6 SECTION 2. There is established in the department of human
7 services the temporary health insurance for unemployed persons
8 program to provide temporary health care coverage for persons
9 who have lost employment.

10 To be eligible to participate in this program the person
11 shall:

- 12 (1) Have lost the person's health insurance as a result of
13 a furlough, layoff, reduced work hours, or termination
14 of employment;
- 15 (2) Not be eligible for any health insurance coverage from
16 another source; and
- 17 (3) Agree to pay for the costs of the person's coverage
18 premium.

19 This program shall have a benefit package similar to the basic
20 benefits provided in the department of human services' QUEST-Net
21 program and shall be administered by the department of human
22 services.

1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general funds
2 of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof
3 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the sum of
4 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
5 year 2010-2011 for administration of the program established by
6 this Act; provided that only moneys received by the State and
7 deposited into the state general fund pursuant to the federal
8 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 may be expended
9 for the purposes of this Act.

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

12 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. (SD2)