

JAN 23 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that childhood obesity
2 constitutes one of Hawaii's most pressing health problems today.
3 Obesity in children has been associated with the growing
4 incidence of type II diabetes, poor self-esteem, and poor health
5 as adults. Some communities in Hawaii have much higher rates of
6 obesity when compared to the rest of the nation.

7 Since the pediatrician is usually the first line of
8 intervention with a child's health, anticipatory guidance from
9 pediatricians and family physicians is likely to offer an
10 effective intervention to evaluate, treat, and prevent obesity.
11 The Hawaii pediatric weight management toolkit was designed in
12 response to the childhood obesity epidemic here in Hawaii. The
13 tool kit provides physicians with data about the child. It
14 includes worksheets to fill out that assess the child's medical
15 history, activity, and nutritional habits. The toolkit also
16 provides behavioral tip sheets for physicians to review with the



1 parent and child, and forms that parents are asked to fill out
2 with information about the child.

3 Behavioral changes are suggested in five areas: reducing
4 sugar-sweetened drinks, reducing sedentary activities,
5 developing a strategy to deal with fast foods, encouraging more
6 physical activity, and alternatives to white rice.

7 The purpose of this Act is to require health insurance
8 providers to include in their policies coverage for weight
9 management and obesity prevention, evaluation, and guidance
10 services for children covered under the policy.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 431, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§431:10A- Weight management and obesity prevention
15 coverage; children. (a) All individual and group accident and
16 health or sickness insurance policies shall provide coverage for
17 weight management and obesity prevention, evaluation, and
18 guidance services for any dependent of a subscriber; provided
19 that:

20 (1) The dependent is covered by the subscriber's policy;

21 and

22 (2) The dependent is under the age of sixteen years old.



1 (b) For the purposes of this section, "weight management
2 and obesity prevention, evaluation, and guidance services" means
3 the application of the Hawaii pediatric weight management
4 toolkit or other similar protocols that provide effective weight
5 management and obesity prevention, evaluation, and guidance."

6 SECTION 3. Chapter 432, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
8 and to read as follows:

9 **"§432:1- Weight management and obesity prevention**
10 **coverage; children.** (a) Each policy, contract, plan, or
11 agreement shall provide coverage for weight management and
12 obesity prevention, evaluation, and guidance services for any
13 dependent of a subscriber; provided that:

14 (1) The dependent is covered by the subscriber's policy;
15 and

16 (2) The dependent is under the age of sixteen years old.

17 (b) For the purposes of this section, "weight management
18 and obesity prevention, evaluation, and guidance services" means
19 the application of the Hawaii pediatric weight management
20 toolkit or other similar protocols that provide effective weight
21 management and obesity prevention, evaluation, and guidance."



1 SECTION 4. Section 432D-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§432D-23 Required provisions and benefits.**

4 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each
5 policy, contract, plan, or agreement issued in the State after
6 January 1, 1995, by health maintenance organizations pursuant to
7 this chapter, shall include benefits provided in sections
8 431:10-212, 431:10A-115, 431:10A-115.5, 431:10A-116,
9 431:10A-116.5, 431:10A-116.6, 431:10A-119, 431:10A-120, [and]
10 431:10A-121, 431:10A-_____, and chapter 431M."

11 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY: Maanani Chun Oululand

Q-L-M-
Maanani Chun

Robert Bunn

Michelle N. Keolani

Amid Ydji



Report Title:

Health Insurance; Children; Weight Management and Obesity Prevention, Evaluation, and Guidance Services

Description:

Requires health insurance providers to cover weight management and obesity prevention, evaluation, and guidance services for children.

