
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PREPAID HEALTH CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the health and well-
2 being of Hawaii's residents and families is paramount.
3 Consequently, for over thirty years, the Hawaii Prepaid Health
4 Care Act has protected the welfare of the people of Hawaii,
5 offering residents unparalleled access to health care benefits
6 and services. The Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act has
7 accomplished this through various mandates, such as requiring
8 employers who employ one or more full-time employees to provide
9 health insurance, setting the standards for health care coverage
10 in Hawaii, limiting the amount that employees must contribute to
11 premiums, and requiring employees to accept coverage unless
12 covered under another health insurance plan (e.g., a spouse's
13 plan). This has resulted in Hawaii having robust health care
14 plans, low uninsured rates, and some of the lowest premiums in
15 the country. While Hawaii experiences some of the same issues
16 relative to access, quality, and cost as other states across the
17 country, the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act has ensured system
18 stability throughout the State.



1 The legislature further finds that at the time the Hawaii
2 Prepaid Health Care Act was enacted, the legislature anticipated
3 future federal health care reform legislation. Thus, the Hawaii
4 Prepaid Health Care Act included a termination clause in the
5 event such federal legislation was passed. Section 393-51,
6 Hawaii Revised Statutes, states:

7 This chapter shall terminate upon the effective date
8 of federal legislation that provides for voluntary
9 prepaid health care for the people of Hawaii in a
10 manner at least as favorable as the health care
11 provided by this chapter, or upon the effective date
12 of federal legislation that provides for mandatory
13 prepaid health care for the people of Hawaii.

14 The legislature further finds that in 1993, the newly-
15 installed Clinton administration launched health care reform
16 onto the national agenda. Concerned that the federal law would
17 jeopardize the quality of health care that people enjoyed in
18 Hawaii because of the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act, the
19 legislature enacted Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 1994, which
20 repeals the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act's termination clause
21 upon the effective date of any federal act permitting an
22 amendment of the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act.



1 While the Clinton reform did not materialize, national
2 health care reform finally became a reality with the enactment
3 of the federal Affordable Care Act in 2010. Although the
4 Affordable Care Act generally provides for individual and
5 employer health care coverage, it acknowledges the success of
6 Hawaii's prepaid health care model by providing for the
7 continuance of the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act in Section
8 1560(b) of the Affordable Care Act, as follows:

9 Nothing in this title (or an amendment made by this
10 title) shall be construed to modify or limit the
11 application of the exemption for Hawaii's Prepaid
12 Health Care Act (Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 393-1 et seq.) as
13 provided for under section 514(b)(5) of the Employee
14 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C.
15 1144(b)(5)).

16 The legislature is supportive of the Affordable Care Act
17 and the efforts of the President and United States Congress to
18 bring the nation closer to achieving universal health care.
19 However, the legislature continues to believe that the Hawaii
20 Prepaid Health Care Act provides superior benefits for the
21 people of Hawaii, and the legislature is wary that current
22 efforts to rescind or amend the federal Affordable Care Act may



1 jeopardize the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act. Therefore, the
2 legislature believes it is imperative to eliminate all
3 provisions for and references to the termination of the Hawaii
4 Prepaid Health Care Act.

5 SECTION 2. Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 1994, is hereby
6 repealed.

7 SECTION 3. Chapter 393, Part V, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
8 is hereby repealed.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Health Insurance; Prepaid Health Care

Description:

Repeals part V of the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act and Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 1994, relating to the future termination of the prepaid health care law. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

