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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAID.

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

**PART I**

1  
2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii must comply  
3 with federal health care reform legislation requirements by  
4 2014, including mandating physician reimbursements for outcomes  
5 rather than for transactions. The legislature is therefore  
6 interested in authorizing and evaluating health and wellness  
7 alternatives that reduce the incidence of chronic disease,  
8 support medicaid and QUEST recipients in adopting and  
9 maintaining healthier lifestyles, and reduce the costs of health  
10 care expenditures associated with emergency care and other  
11 hospital-based treatments for avoidable chronic diseases.

12 The legislature further finds that various programs and  
13 practices can be used for inspiration when developing a pilot  
14 program. Kokua Kalihi Valley's healthy eating and lifestyle  
15 program is a culturally-informed diabetes self-management  
16 education class aimed at persons of Pacific island descent that  
17 includes a communal garden component in the program. This and  
18 other land-based programs that focus on wellness activities may



1 be able to prevent or reduce chronic illness. Integrating  
2 nutrition, exercise, and medical best practices not currently  
3 covered by health insurance can be used to achieve significant  
4 and positive results for patient health. Education, counseling,  
5 and other best practices not currently covered by health  
6 insurance can be used to reduce childhood obesity. The  
7 legislature finds that childhood obesity has increased  
8 significantly in Hawaii and across the nation, and must be  
9 addressed in a significant way in order to avoid an epidemic of  
10 early onset diabetes and other chronic diseases. Finally,  
11 complementary and alternative medicine and healing can be used  
12 to promote good health and wellness.

13 The legislature also finds that during the last legislative  
14 session, QUEST faced an extensive budgetary shortfall.  
15 Fortunately, the legislature was able to pass an emergency  
16 appropriation measure so that contracted QUEST plans would  
17 continue to receive payment in a timely manner. The legislature  
18 believes it would be prudent to establish a legislative task  
19 force to examine issues relating to medicaid shortfalls, and to  
20 work toward a goal of preventing future shortfalls in the  
21 program.

22 The purpose of this Act is to:



1 (1) Establish a wellness pilot program within medicaid;

2 and

3 (2) Establish a joint legislative task force on medicaid.

4 **PART II**

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2012-2013 for the creation of a wellness pilot program for  
10 medicaid recipients or QUEST members.

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

13 **PART III**

14 SECTION 3. (a) The president of the senate and the  
15 speaker of the house of representatives shall convene a joint  
16 legislative task force on medicaid to examine issues relating to  
17 medicaid.

18 (b) The task force shall consist of the following:

19 (1) The chairs of the standing committees that have  
20 jurisdiction over medicaid of the respective houses of  
21 the legislature, who shall co-chair the task force;



- 1           (2) The director of human services, or the director's
- 2           designee;
- 3           (3) The director of health, or the director's designee;
- 4           (4) The director of commerce and consumer affairs, or the
- 5           director's designee; and
- 6           (5) Representatives from the following groups, who shall
- 7           be invited to participate by the president of the
- 8           senate and the speaker of the house of
- 9           representatives:
  - 10           (A) Each health care plan contracted with the State
  - 11           under the medicaid program, including AlohaCare,
  - 12           Evercare, Hawaii Medical Service Association,
  - 13           Kaiser Permanente, and Ohana Health Plan;
  - 14           (B) The provider community, including AARP Hawaii,
  - 15           Faith Action for Community Equity Hawaii, Hawaii
  - 16           Medical Association, PHOCUSED, and Mental Health
  - 17           America of Hawaii;
  - 18           (C) The hospital community, including the Healthcare
  - 19           Association of Hawaii;
  - 20           (D) Primary care centers, including Hawaii Primary
  - 21           Care Association and Kalihi-Palama Health Center;



- 1 (E) The long-term care industry, including the Hawaii
- 2 Long Term Care Association; and
- 3 (F) Other healthcare providers, including the Hawaii
- 4 Dietetic Association.

5 (c) The task force may conduct meetings, briefings, and  
6 hearings, as appropriate, and recommend legislation pursuant  
7 thereto.

8 **PART IV**

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Medicaid; Pilot Program; Task Force; Appropriation

**Description:**

Creates a wellness pilot program within medicaid; appropriates funds. Establishes a joint legislative task force to examine issues relating to medicaid. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

