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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The federal Patient Protection and Affordable  
2 Care Act of 2010 provides for the establishment of health  
3 insurance exchanges by 2014 that will facilitate the purchase  
4 and sale of, and provide a connection between buyers and sellers  
5 of, federally qualified health insurance plans. The intent of  
6 these health insurance exchanges is to reduce the number of  
7 uninsured, provide a transparent marketplace and consumer  
8 education, and assist individuals with access to programs,  
9 premium assistance tax credits, and cost-sharing reductions.

10           The legislature finds that, under Hawaii's current prepaid  
11 health care act, the State already enjoys an overall healthier  
12 population, lower rates of uninsured than on the mainland, and  
13 generally lower premium costs. The prepaid health care act has  
14 been successful and it is imperative that the prepaid health  
15 care act work in tandem with health insurance exchanges.

16           The State is already in receipt of a federal grant to plan  
17 for the design and implementation of a Hawaii-based health  
18 insurance exchange and a task force has also been convened for



1 this purpose. This Act requires the Hawaii-based nonprofit  
2 health insurance exchange to work collaboratively with the task  
3 force to propose legislation for consideration during the  
4 regular session of 2012 to implement a framework that ensures  
5 the State's compliance with federal law. This will enable the  
6 legislature to provide policy direction and operational guidance  
7 as the State continues working towards the 2014 health insurance  
8 exchange implementation deadline.

9 Because the federal grant will soon become available and  
10 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services will  
11 need to determine whether Hawaii is on track to implement a  
12 health insurance exchange, the legislature finds it is prudent  
13 to move forward during the regular session of 2011 with an  
14 enabling statute. This framework will allow the legislature to  
15 make the most appropriate policy decisions for the  
16 implementation of the health insurance exchange during the  
17 regular session of 2012.

18 The legislature finds that the people of Hawaii will be  
19 best served by a health insurance exchange that is operated in  
20 Hawaii. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create a  
21 private, nonprofit health insurance exchange.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 431, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new article to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "ARTICLE

5 HAWAII HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE

6 §431: -101 Title. This article shall be known and may  
7 be cited as the Hawaii Health Benefit Exchange Act.

8 §431: -102 Definitions. As used in this article:

9 "Board" means the board of directors of the Hawaii health  
10 benefit exchange.

11 "Commissioner" means the insurance commissioner.

12 "Exchange" means the Hawaii health benefit exchange.

13 "Federal act" means the Patient Protection and Affordable  
14 Care Act (Public Law 111-148), as amended by the Health Care and  
15 Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), and  
16 any amendments and related regulations or guidance.

17 "Health carrier" means an entity subject to the insurance  
18 laws and rules of this State or the jurisdiction of the  
19 commissioner that contracts or offers to contract to provide,  
20 deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the costs of  
21 health care services, including an accident and health or  
22 sickness insurance company under chapter 431, article 10A, a



1 health maintenance organization under chapter 432D, a mutual  
2 benefit society or a nonprofit hospital and health service  
3 corporation under chapter 432, or any other entity providing a  
4 plan of health insurance, health benefits, or health services.

5 "Qualified health plan" means a health benefit plan offered  
6 by a health carrier that has in effect a certification that the  
7 plan meets the criteria for certification described in section  
8 1311(c) of the federal act.

9 "Secretary" means the United States Secretary of Health and  
10 Human Services.

11 **§431: -103 Hawaii health benefit exchange;**

12 **establishment; purpose.** (a) There is established as a  
13 nonprofit body corporate, the Hawaii health benefit exchange.

14 (b) The purpose of the Hawaii health benefit exchange  
15 shall include but not be limited to:

16 (1) Facilitating the purchase and sale of qualified health  
17 plans in compliance with the federal act; and

18 (2) Those purposes set forth by the legislature.

19 **§431: -104 Board of directors; composition; operation.**

20 (a) The Hawaii health benefit exchange shall be governed by a  
21 board of directors, which shall be composed of nine members as  
22 follows:



1 (1) Three members, by and with the advice and consent of  
2 the senate, shall be appointed by the governor for a  
3 term of four years; provided that two of the three  
4 members shall be appointed from the community;

5 (2) Three members, by and with the advice and consent of  
6 the senate, shall be appointed by the governor from a  
7 list of nominations submitted by the president of the  
8 senate and shall serve for a term of four years;  
9 provided that of the initial appointees, one shall be  
10 appointed for a two-year term; and

11 (3) Three members, by and with the advice and consent of  
12 the senate, shall be appointed by the governor from a  
13 list of nominations submitted by the speaker of the  
14 house of representatives and shall serve for a term of  
15 four years; provided that of the initial appointees,  
16 one shall be appointed for a two-year term.

17 A vacancy shall be filled in accordance with article V,  
18 section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

19 The governor shall select a chairperson and vice-  
20 chairperson from among the members.

21 (b) Members shall receive no compensation for services,  
22 but shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses,



1 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their  
2 duties.

3 (c) The board shall implement the exchange in accordance  
4 with this article and shall be authorized to establish  
5 procedures for the operation of the exchange.

6 (d) The board shall meet no less than quarterly on a  
7 schedule established by the chairperson. Five members of the  
8 board shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of five  
9 members shall be necessary for any action of the board.

10 (e) The board shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter  
11 91 regarding conflict of interest and recusal procedures. The  
12 rules shall include a requirement for the recusal of a member  
13 regarding action on any official matter if the member has any  
14 financial involvement or interest in that matter. All recusals  
15 shall be in advance of any board action and shall specify in  
16 writing the reason and date of the recusal.

17 (f) The board shall prepare and submit an annual report to  
18 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
19 of each regular legislative session.

20 **§431: -105 Officers and employees of the exchange.** The  
21 board shall appoint, without regard to chapters 76 and 89, an  
22 executive director who shall serve at the pleasure of the board



1 and who shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations and  
2 management of the exchange. The board may also appoint any  
3 other officers and employees, without regard to chapters 76 and  
4 89, that may be necessary in administering the affairs of the  
5 exchange. The board, at its discretion, shall prescribe  
6 employees' duties, responsibilities, salaries, holidays,  
7 vacations, leaves, hours of work, and working conditions. The  
8 board may grant any other benefits to its employees that it  
9 deems necessary.

10 **§431: -106 Powers.** The exchange, under the direction of  
11 the board, shall have the powers and authorities of a private,  
12 nonprofit entity.

13 **§431: -107 Funding.** As required by section  
14 1311(d)(5)(A) of the federal act, the exchange shall be self-  
15 sustaining by January 1, 2015. The board may establish fees to  
16 offset administrative costs.

17 **§431: -108 Effect on the Prepaid Health Care Act.**  
18 Nothing in this article shall diminish or alter in any manner  
19 the provisions of chapter 393.

20 **§431: -109 Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt rules in  
21 accordance with chapter 91 to implement this article; provided  
22 that the rules shall not conflict with or prevent the



1 application of regulations promulgated by the Secretary under  
2 the federal act."

3 SECTION 3. (a) The Hawaii health benefit exchange shall  
4 work with the state health insurance exchange task force  
5 established in the department of commerce and consumer affairs  
6 to comply with Federal Domestic Assistance grant number 93:525  
7 to develop policies and necessary proposed legislation to  
8 implement the duties and responsibilities of the Hawaii health  
9 benefit exchange in compliance with the Patient Protection and  
10 Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education  
11 Reconciliation Act of 2010, taking into consideration chapter  
12 393, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

13 (b) Twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
14 session of 2012, the board of directors of the Hawaii health  
15 benefit exchange shall submit proposed legislation amending the  
16 new article established under this Act to provide for the  
17 implementation of a health insurance exchange in Hawaii that  
18 complies with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as  
19 amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of  
20 2010 and any federal authorization granted to the State pursuant  
21 to that act.

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





**Report Title:**

Hawaii Health Benefit Exchange

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii health benefit exchange in compliance with federal law. (HB1201 HD1)

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

