
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAID.

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

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PART I

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

The legislature further finds that various programs and practices can be used for inspiration when developing a pilot program. Kokua Kalihi Valley's healthy eating and lifestyle program is a culturally-informed diabetes self-management education class aimed at persons of Pacific descent that includes a communal garden component in the program. This and 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 may, from time to time,
16 convene a joint legislative task force on medicaid to examine
17 issues relating to medicaid.

18 (b) The chairs of the standing committees that have
19 jurisdiction over medicaid of the respective houses of the
20 legislature shall co-chair the task force.

21 (c) The task force shall consist of the following:



- 1 (1) Representatives from the standing committees that have
2 jurisdiction over medicaid of the respective houses of
3 the legislature;
- 4 (2) The director of human services, or the director's
5 designee;
- 6 (3) The director of health, or the director's designee;
- 7 (4) The director of commerce and consumer affairs, or the
8 director's designee;
- 9 (5) Representatives from each health care plan contracted
10 with the State under the medicaid program, including
11 AlohaCare, Evercare, Hawaii Medical Service
12 Association, Kaiser Permanente, and Ohana Health Plan;
- 13 (6) Representatives from the provider community, including
14 AARP Hawaii, Faith Action for Community Equity Hawaii,
15 Hawaii Medical Association, PHOCUSED, and Mental
16 Health America of Hawaii;
- 17 (7) Representatives from the hospital community, including
18 the Healthcare Association of Hawaii;
- 19 (8) Representatives from primary care centers, including
20 Hawaii Primary Care Association and Kalihi-Palama
21 Health Center;



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. (SD1)

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