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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE SECTION 1115 WAIVER GRANTED TO HAWAII IN 1994 TO RAISE THE MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY TO UP TO THREE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

1 WHEREAS, in 1994, Hawaii implemented a statewide Section  
2 1115 Medicaid waiver program called QUEST to expand eligibility  
3 to pregnant women, children, and nondisabled adults, to up to  
4 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, in 1996, the program made several significant  
7 changes that restricted enrollment in QUEST and implemented an  
8 enrollment cap of 125,000 individuals and reinstated the  
9 Medicaid resource test in a new safety net program called QUEST-  
10 Net that would serve those who became ineligible for QUEST due  
11 to the asset limit; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, in addition, the State requested QUEST enrollees  
14 with incomes above 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level  
15 (except for pregnant women and children) and QUEST-Net enrollees  
16 to pay the full premium for the program; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, in 1998, the State lowered the eligibility level  
19 for QUEST to up to 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level  
20 (except for pregnant women and children), and expanded QUEST-Net  
21 to include all individuals who became ineligible for QUEST; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, although QUEST-Net covered some adults up to 300  
24 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, it was not very large as  
25 the number of adults in QUEST-Net Adult was approximately 220,  
26 and as of February 1, 2008, the Federal Poverty Level for QUEST-  
27 Net Adult was changed from up to 300 percent to up to 200  
28 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; and  
29



1           WHEREAS, during this time when Hawaii was scaling back  
2 eligibility levels, other states were exploring ways to provide  
3 health insurance to uninsured individuals whose incomes were too  
4 high to qualify them for public programs and who did not have  
5 access to or could not afford private insurance; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, for example, New York created the nation's highest  
8 ceiling for the State Children's Health Insurance Program  
9 (SCHIP) by raising the eligibility requirement from up to 250  
10 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to up to 400 percent of the  
11 Federal Poverty Level, and New Jersey also raised its SCHIP  
12 eligibility to up to 350 percent of the Federal Poverty Level;  
13 and  
14

15           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, it is believed that families earning  
16 over 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level are more likely to  
17 have access to employer-sponsored health insurance, and since it  
18 is not the intent of QUEST to replace employer-sponsored health  
19 coverage for dependents, an up to 300 percent of the Federal  
20 Poverty Level is reasonable; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, inflation in health care costs has risen faster  
23 than incomes, thereby putting children in families suffering  
24 from economic hardship at risk of not receiving medical care;  
25 and  
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27           WHEREAS, it is timely for Hawaii to plan, execute, and  
28 maintain health insurance expansion, as well as improve the  
29 availability and affordability of health care coverage; now,  
30 therefore,  
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32           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
33 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
34 of 2012, that the Department of Human Services is requested to  
35 fully implement the Section 1115 Waiver granted to Hawaii in  
36 1994 to expand Medicaid eligibility to up to 300 percent of the  
37 Federal Poverty Level; and  
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39           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human  
40 Services is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no  
41 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session

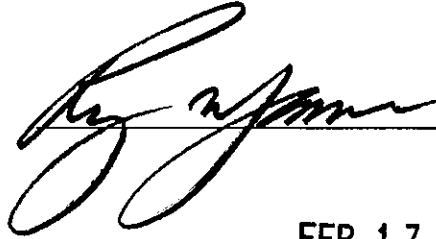


1 of 2013, on the progress of fully implementing the Section 1115  
2 Waiver; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Human  
6 Services, Director of Finance, and Executive Director of the  
7 Hawaii Health Authority.

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OFFERED BY:



FEB 17 2012

