
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING CONSIDERATION OF MEDICAID EXPANSION AS A VIABLE SOLUTION TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR HAWAII RESIDENTS WITH INCOME BETWEEN ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE PERCENT AND TWO HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

1 WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
2 (Public Law 111-148) was enacted by the United States Congress
3 on March 30, 2010, together with the Health Care and Education
4 Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152); and

5
6 WHEREAS, on July 1, 2012, individuals in Hawaii earning
7 more than one hundred thirty-three percent of the federal
8 poverty level were dropped from Medicaid coverage and left
9 without health insurance; and

10
11 WHEREAS, individuals and families with incomes between one
12 hundred thirty-three percent and two hundred percent of the
13 federal poverty level, also known as the "gap group," are
14 working poor and unlikely to afford the purchase of health
15 insurance through the Hawaii Health Connector; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the health care needs of the gap group and low-
18 income earners in Hawaii are more complex than higher wage
19 earners and often require multiple support systems more aligned
20 with a Medicaid benefit package than a commercial insurance
21 benefit package; and

22
23 WHEREAS, patients in the gap group often seek care at
24 community health centers that provide fully integrated health
25 care homes that include the array of preventive, medical,
26 primary, dental, behavioral, social, and enabling services that
27 are needed to attain favorable outcomes for patients with
28 complex and interrelated medical and social challenges; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the Compacts of Free Association population, which
31 the federal government has not supported under the Medicaid
32 program, has very few individuals in the gap group and therefore
33 will not represent an added cost to the state general fund; and
34



1 WHEREAS, the federal government will support one hundred
2 percent of the Medicaid expansion for the gap group; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the two predominant options for Hawaii to pursue
5 in offering health care coverage for individuals earning more
6 than one hundred thirty-three percent of the federal poverty
7 level are expansion of Medicaid or the Hawaii Health Connector;
8 now, therefore,
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,
12 that this body urges consideration of Medicaid expansion as a
13 viable solution to provide insurance coverage for Hawaii
14 residents with income between one hundred thirty-three percent
15 and two hundred percent of the federal poverty level; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
18 Services is urged to consult with providers to find ways to
19 bridge coverage and propose strategies to prevent "revolving
20 doors" for support services; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health,
24 Director of Human Services, Director of Commerce and Consumer
25 Affairs, Insurance Commissioner, and Executive Director of the
26 Hawaii Health Connector.
27

